Tourist hurt in hit-and-run in Garapan. PAGE 2
Lawsuit seeks to protect habitat of 23 Micronesian species. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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9th Circuit backs CCC

» Commission OK'd to make public IPI's confidential income tax info

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied yesterday Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's appeal of a U.S. District Court for the NMI decision to allow the public release of its income tax information.

See CCC on Page 4

The façade of the Imperial Palace Resort. MARC A. VENUS

IPI makes full payment

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David Atalig confirmed yesterday that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has paid the remaining balance in its annual casino license renewal fee of $15 million.

With IPI's last day to pay due yesterday, Atalig confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the lone casino licensee wired to the CNMI government $10.5 million.

Last week, IPI reportedly paid only $5.5 million of its annual obligation. That means that IPI has now paid $16 million in all—$1 million higher than the required $15 million.

Atalig said the additional $1 million would go to the Commonwealth Casino Com-

See IPI on Page 4

Dengue patient recovers

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI resident who contracted dengue fever—likely during a trip to Palau—has recovered with no complications, according to a Commonwealth Health Care Corp. statement.

As of now, there are no further cases of dengue fever in the CNMI.

Neighboring countries such as the Philippines, Palau, Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands have already declared dengue outbreaks. CHCC does not believe there is a high likelihood of an outbreak occurring in the CNMI.

See DENGUE on Page 4

'NMI economy will crash without intervention'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Without a fix, mass exodus of 9,000 workers seen before Sept. 30

Both the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Marianas Business Association Corp. are appealing to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to intervene in the processing of work permits for foreign workers in order to avert an economic disaster for the CNMI.

In a four-page letter to Sablan dated Monday, the Chamber sought his aid for an immediate, short-term solution to avoid a mass exit of foreign workers in the CNMI, categorized as CW-1 workers. The organization also in-

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Jianping Mendiola used to be a chef in Guam. Now she is bringing that expertise to Saipan.
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NATION
The Trump administration has eliminated a protection for migrant medical care.
PAGE 14

ASIA
Indonesia's capital will move from Jakarta to East Kalimantan province in Borneo.
PAGE 15

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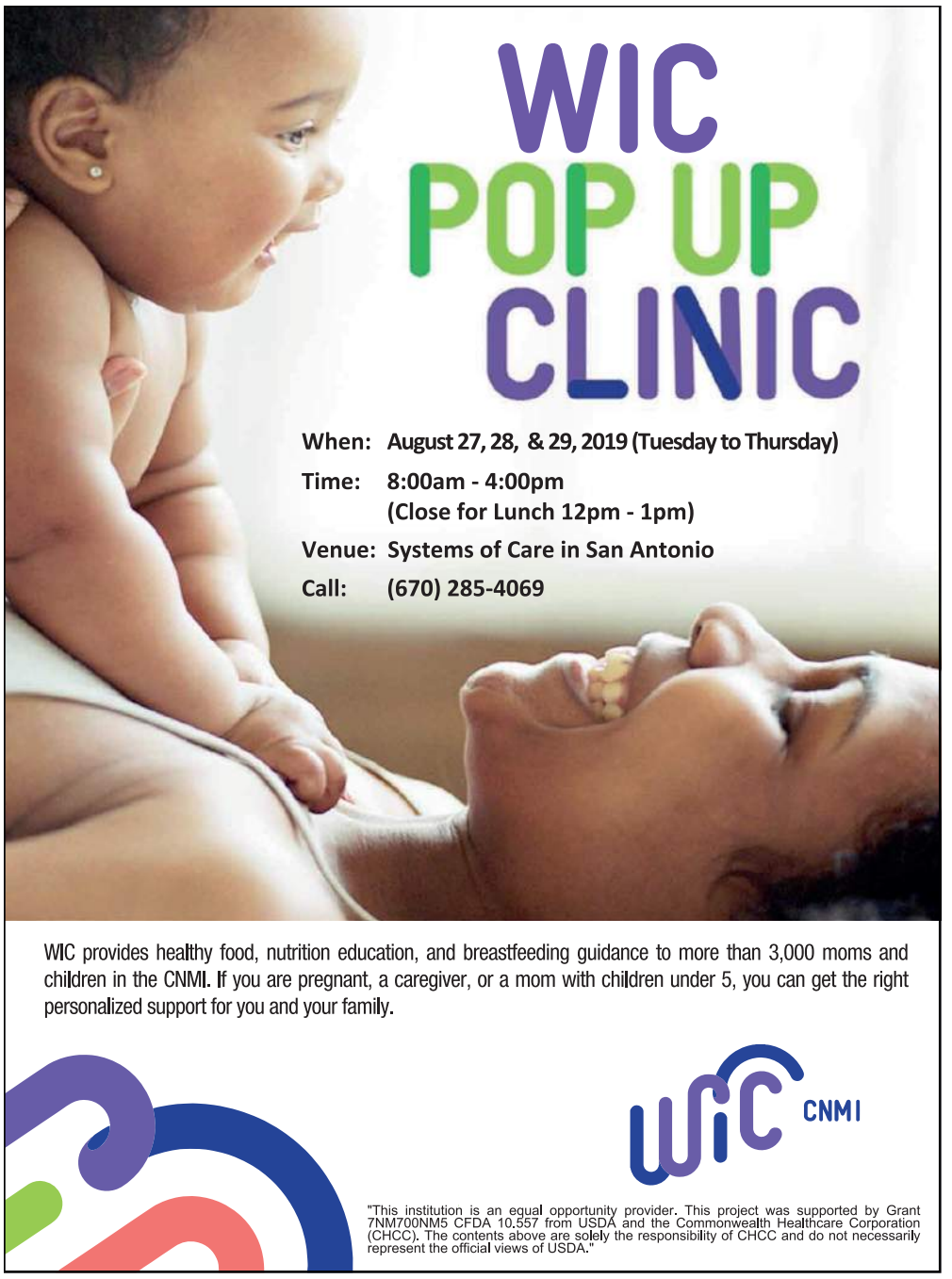
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When: August 27, 28, & 29, 2019 (Tuesday to Thursday)
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WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.
WIC CNMI
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

Local

Tourist hurt in hit-and-run in Garapan

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A female tourist became a hit-and-run victim as she was crossing the pedestrian crosswalk by the DFS T-Galleria in Garapan last Monday.

According to a Department of Public Safety statement yesterday, the unnamed female tourist, accompanied by her husband, were about the cross the street after the pedestrian sign lit up, signaling that it was safe to cross. Before crossing, the couple took a second look at the traffic lights, making sure that the traffic lights were on red and cars were on stop, and it was safe to cross. As the couple proceeded to cross, a car ran the red light and drove near the victim, running over her left foot.

The victim fell. Her husband picked her up and the two limped to a nearby business establishment to call 911.

According to DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, the victim declined to be taken to the hospital. He said that officers spoke with eyewitnesses and the couple, and they were not able to recall the license plate of the vehicle. However, they were able to identify the vehicle as a beige-colored older model Toyota Camry.

The DPS statement said that police were dispatched to the scene at about 6:38pm after a 911 call, reporting the hit-and-run.

"At this time the case is still being investigated and DPS is looking at every possible way to identify the vehicle," Pangelinan said.

Those with information about the incident are encouraged to call 911 or the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at (670) 234-7272.

According to the *Saipan Tribune* archives, on June 8, 2008 twin brothers Anthony and Vicente Muña attempted to snatch the purse of a walking tourist in southern Garapan, but were unsuccessful and ended up hitting her with their car instead. The pair tried to snatch the purses of two female tourists who were walking along the shoulder of the road.

Police were able to identify and apprehend the two from video evidence provided by a nearby store's surveillance camera that captured the hit-and-run.

DPS slams Propst's Facebook post

Propst

The CNMI Department of Public Safety released the following statement yesterday about Rep. Edwin K. Propst's post about police officers on Facebook.

The Precinct 1 representative posted a photo on Facebook late Sunday afternoon with the following caption, "If your crystal meth dealer has all of their teeth, they're the cops."

The following is the official statement from DPS:

DPS condemns [Propst's post] associating police officers as drug dealers. This is a blatantly offensive statement that is not only out of line and of low moral character, but it also undermines the hard work by our police officers and our

See DPS on Page 4

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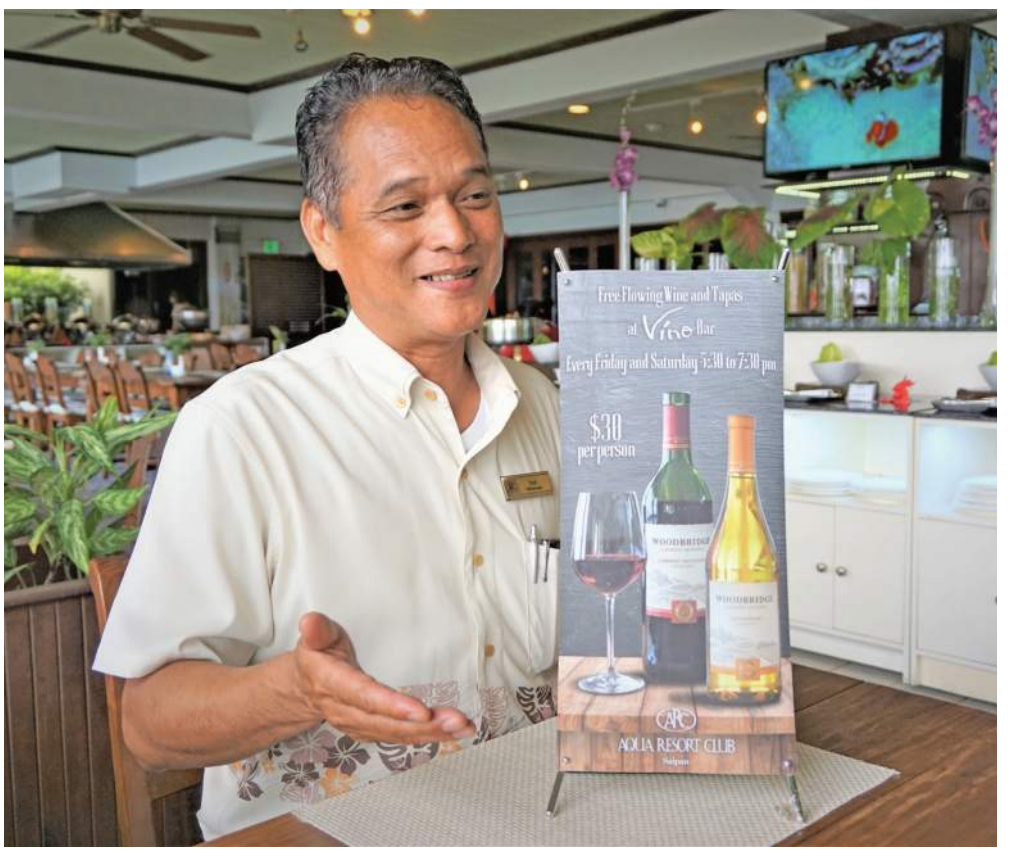
Dine and unwind promotions at Aqua Resort Club

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT



BEA CABRERA
Aqua Resort Club Saipan's Food & Beverage manager Neil Metran.

In response to popular demand, Aqua Resort Club Saipan is extending its yearly summer special "Cajun Sea-Feast" to September, giving its fans more time to nosh on the fresh catch cooked "Cajun style," with a generous smattering of herbs and spices.

The Cajun Sea Fest is an ARC staple in August and is held twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. It usually runs only in the month of August.

"Since it has grown in popularity, we decided to also have it every Thursday night in the month of September, from 6pm to 9pm," said Victoria Sorrell, ARC marketing & public relations manager. "We hope to run it as long as our guests want it…"

She said this style of cooking is something unique to the islands right now; no other establishments highlight the Cajun cuisine.

"We usually do it outside but the weather has been unpredictable lately, so we moved it to the Costa Restaurant for everyone's convenience and safety," she added.

Neil Metran, ARC's food & beverage manager, describes the Cajun Sea-Feast as a superior kind of "boodle fight."

"Boodle fight is having the dishes spread on the table in front of you and you eat using your bare hands. That is similar to what we like our guests to experience when they are at our Cajun Sea-Feast. We set up the food, guests wear plastic gloves and dig into fresh Cajun-style seafood to their heart's content," he said.

"In the near future, we plan to ask the guests to set aside the plastic gloves and use their bare hands. We will be putting some wash stations at the back so they will enjoy the meal more," he added.

Sorell said the Cajun Sea-Feast comes in different packages. "All the pricing is per couple and the amount of seafood that is served is good for two people."

For example, the "Shrimp Combo" is composed of jumbo prawns, sliced jumbo squid, green mussels, clams, spicy Chamorro sausage, mahi-mahi, corn on the cob and potatoes—all served with a sourdough mini-loaf, all for only $70 a couple.

The "Crab Combo" is composed of a snow crab cluster, blue crab, jumbo shrimp, sliced jumbo squid, green mussels, clams, spicy Chamorro sausage, mahi-mahi, corn on the cob and potatoes—all served with a sourdough mini-oaf for only $85 a couple.

The "Deluxe Lobster Combo" is composed of lobster tail, snow crab cluster, jumbo shrimp, sliced squid, green mussels, clams, spicy Chamorro sausage, mahi-mahi, corn on the cob and potatoes—all served with a sourdough mini-loaf all for only $100 a couple.

Each combo comes with bottomless soda for two, two appetizers like nachos con salsa and vegetables sticks with ranch, and the sauces compatible with the seafood combos: Creole tomato sauce, Cajun garlic butter and avocado remoulade. Dessert is a pair of vanilla ice cream in a waffle cone and coffee. For a la carte orders, Bud family bucket of five beers is only $16, Asahi $16, a pitcher of Sangria red or white is only $12, and a glass of fruit-flavored Chu-Hi soju is only $6.

Unwind with wine

Another Aqua Resort Club Saipan promo—the "Free Flowing Wine & Tapas" promo at its Vino Bar—aims to bring people together to sit down, relax ,and have a conversation.

"For only $30 every Friday and Saturday, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, guests can enjoy Robert Mondavi wines and three kinds of tapas," Metran said.

He said the good combination of wine and tapas make for a great way to unwind from work, recharge, and refresh for the next day.

"A live band will be performing and guests can request their favorite songs," he added.

Aqua Resort Club Saipan welcomes company parties, team building and special celebrations.

For reservations for both Cajun Sea-Feast and "Free Flowing Wine & Tapas," call (670) 322-1234 or go to their website at www.aquaresort-saipan.com.

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ARC
Cajun Sea-Feast is back!!!
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Join us for a delicious Cajun inspired dinner featuring all your seafood favorites!
We take a variety of fresh seafood, steamed in a bag of mouth-watering Cajun spices, we shake it up, we pour it out on the table, give you bibs, and let you go at it!
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Available Every Thursday & Sunday starting August 1, 2019
Reservations Required.
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CRASH

From Page 1

cluded recommendations they believe will further assist with future CW applications.

Come fiscal year 2020 starting Oct. 1, 2019, CW-1 workers who have yet to receive their renewed CW petition and are not eligible for the 240-day automatic extension while pending a decision from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on their petition will have to exit the CNMI, which the Chamber believes would severely disrupt the economy.

"We [Chamber] ask for your [Sablan] assistance in remedying…and finding a short-term solution to avoid the exodus of half of our workforce before [Sept. 30, 2019]," Chamber president Velma Palacios wrote Sablan.

She noted that several policies embedded in last year's H.R. 5956, also known as U.S. Public Law 115-218, "unintentionally impedes" moving toward a non-CW worker reliant workforce within a 10-year period as provided by the legislation.

The Chamber previously told *Saipan Tribune* that several businesses under the organization are struggling with U.S. Department of Labor requirements to process their CW petitions. Only 33 days remain before existing CW-1 permits expire on Sept. 30, 2019, yet it takes USDOL around 41 days on average to process Temporary Labor Certifications, according to Sablan last Monday.

Yet the TLC is only Step 2 of the four-step process required by USDOL for businesses to apply for CW visas. Additional steps beyond the TLC include a job vacancy announcement posting, which takes about 21 days.

Businesses can only start applying CW petitions 180 days—or six months—before its intended date of hiring or renewal. The estimated 41 days for TLC processing, combined with the 21 days for JVA posting, accounts for a third of the total days allotted for CW processing already—and only for the USDOL side of the CW visa renewal and application requirements. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has its own set of timelines and usually takes about three months to fully process.

"We will experience upwards a 95% reduction of workers within the first two years of the passage of U.S. P.L. 115-218 because of [several] policies," Palacios wrote Sablan.

"The…policies are causing delays in visa processing, [creating] unattainable logistical barriers, and [disallowing us] to transition to a U.S. workforce in a way that will not crash our economy or allow us to recover from [Super] Typhoon Yutu," she added.

In a separate statement, Northern Marianas Business Administration Corp. president Alex Sablan told *Saipan Tribune,* "We hope Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and [Delegate] Kilili Sablan are successful in intervening and providing the reprieve needed to keep our economy growing while balancing the required hiring of U.S. citizens."

"At this time, if no remedy comes into place to either increase USDOL's capacity to process TLC's or to provide protection to CW renewal applicants and allow them to reside in the Commonwealth while their visas are being processed, the result is a mass exodus of approximately 9,000 workers before Sept. 30, 2019 that our economy cannot handle," Palacios said.

Exclude 'touchback' provision

U.S. P.L. 115-218's "touchback" provision, which requires all CW workers to exit the CNMI to "touch back" at their country of origin before they could renew their visa, would result in the CNMI losing about half of its workforce for a period of 70 to 140 days, Palacios said in her letter to Sablan.

At present, 95% of all CNMI-only CWs expire on Sept. 30 of every year.

"As we interpret the law, we can only begin processing renewal visas after 30 days [from the CW worker's exit]. This means on Oct. 1, 2020, we will lose approximately half of our workforce for a period of 70 to 140 days, shutting down business operations and drastically impacting our economy's ability to function," Palacios said.

She reiterated that the CW visa is not "and never will be a pathway to citizenship."

"The negative impact of shutting down a volatile economy for 30 days far outweighs the benefit of the touchback provision for a visa that will not lead to U.S. citizenship. We ask for the exclusion of the 30-day touchback provision," the letter noted.

Periodic PWS requirement, not annual

Another factor that impedes the CNMI economy's eventual independence from CW workers include the annual prevailing wage survey requirement, wrote Palacios.

"Because of restrictions set forth by the U.S. Department of Labor in requiring three businesses with at least 30 staff to determine a CNMI wage, wage determinations for 532 out of 823 total occupations were reflective of wages in Guam or the U.S. rather than those based on our economy," Palacios said.

With this data, she noted, the CNMI PWS reportedly doubles or even triples the wages for occupations that do not meet the three businesses and 30 staff rule, forcing the CNMI to have wages that "do not fit our current economy."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DENGUE

From Page 1

Although there is no endemic source of the dengue virus in the CNMI, CHCC still urges the public to remain vigilant, and take steps to eradicate mosquito populations and prevent bites. If anyone is planning to travel to a country with a dengue fever outbreak, they must make sure to pay special attention to mosquito bite prevention, both during travel and after returning to the CNMI—for at least two weeks after returning.

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported yesterday one additional confirmed dengue case in Guam. The individual recently returned from a trip to Yap.

The DPHSS reported that there is no dengue outbreak and dengue virus transmission is not occurring on the island. It reported a total of 41 cases from 1988 to 2018.

A total of two cases have been confirmed in 2019 in Guam, both contracted from off-island. Guam will likely continue to see additional suspected and confirmed dengue fever cases this year from immigrants, migrants, and residents who travel back and forth to countries that have dengue fever outbreaks.

The CHCC approximates one in four people infected with dengue fever will get sick, and dengue is usually a mild illness that does not require hospitalization. Symptoms of dengue fever include: Sudden, high fevers, severe headaches and pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, skin rashes that appear two to five days after the onset of the fever. Those who experience these symptoms, especially those who have recently returned from a country with a dengue fever outbreak must consult with a doctor right away.

Although there is a vaccine for dengue fever, it has only been approved for those who have already been infected with dengue. The best and most important dengue prevention strategy is to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes and getting rid of mosquito populations around homes. CHCC recommends the following:

- Remove standing water sources in and around your home, including emptying buckets, tires, and other debris, and draining puddles.
- Make sure windows are tight fitting and do not have holes.
- Close up the house and use air conditioning if you have it, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use insect repellent when outside. Please be mindful to read instruction labels before using mosquito repellents, as most are not safe to use on young children. Make sure repellents are DEET 20%.
- Cover strollers and cribs with mosquito netting.
- Cover exposed skin with long sleeves, pants, and hats.
- Sleep indoors with windows closed. If you are sleeping outside or camping, use bed nets.

For more information on dengue fever, contact the CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program at (670) 234-8950, or email the Surveillance Unit at surveillance@chcc.gov.mp.

For more information about controlling mosquito populations, contact the Bureau of Environmental Heat at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

IPI

From Page 1

mission's previous statement that the company should pay an additional $502,000 for adjustments based on the consumer price index.

"IPI wired the $10.5 million and we received the wire transfer," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune.* "There was no explanation [about] the delay of payment but that would be a CCC issue. The CCC can still impose a penalty under their [Casino License Agreement]."

Whether penalties will be imposed on the lone casino licensee is a call that the CCC would have to make, according to Atalig.

Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in a separate interview over the weekend that he gave the company 15 days from Aug. 12, 2019, to complete its renewal fee payment. IPI was originally set to pay the renewal fee by Aug. 12.

Atalig noted that a separate letter from the CCC gave a similar timeline. Yesterday was the last day for IPI to pay the fee.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a previous interview that he and the Office of the Attorney General have already started to look at possible courses of actions over IPI's delayed payment.

"Wherever you go, there are procedures that need to be followed and this is [an example of a procedure]; they [IPI] are delinquent in their payment, and so there are going to be procedures that need to be done in order for us to… give them due process," he had said.

According to the CLA, which the CCC enforces on IPI, delayed, partial, or the non-payment of "…any amount due and payable" within the Casino License Agreement constitutes a breach. A breach in the CLA can result in the suspension or even revocation of the casino license.

CCC

From Page 1

In an order Monday, Ninth Circuit judges A. Wallace Tashima and Milan D. Smith Jr. denied IPI's motion to prevent the Commonwealth Casino Commission from disclosing IPI's unredacted financial statements.

Tashima and Smith ordered that the previously established briefing schedule remains in effect. The judges did not provide other details in their order.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from IPI.

Tashima and Smith recently temporarily prohibited CCC from disclosing IPI's confidential income tax information after IPI filed the emergency motion. That motion sought to suspend the U.S. District Court for the NMI's preliminary injunction order that allowed the Commonwealth Casino Commission to disclose IPI's confidential income tax information that is subject of a legal dispute.

The Ninth Circuit judges temporarily stayed the order of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that denied the petition of IPI and its two subsidiaries for a preliminary injunction.

In a 25-page decision last Aug. 6, Manglona ruled that IPI and its subsidiaries—Grand Marianas (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific Properties LLC—have not met their burden for a preliminary injunction.

Manglona, however, declined to address the motion to remand IPI's lawsuit against CCC to the Superior Court that was filed by IPI and its subsidiaries, as the issues of abstention and supplemental jurisdiction raised in the motion will be further briefed and argued.

IPI and its subsidiaries have asked the federal court to prevent the disclosure of unredacted financial statements because, in their view, those statements contain confidential information protected from disclosure by provisions in the CNMI tax code and the Open Government Act, and by guarantees of privacy in the U.S. and Commonwealth constitutions.

In order to obtain such protection, IPI filed a petition for preliminary injunction prohibiting CCC from releasing the unredacted financial statements while this case is pending.

The dispute arises from the Open Government Act request filed with CCC by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) on June 13, 2019.

Propst asked for information regarding 2017 and 2018 audit reports for IPI/Best Sunshine prepared by Ernst & Young; all business gross revenue tax payments made by IPI/Best Sunshine to date, with amounts and date; and all corporate income taxes paid by IPI/Best Sunshine.

DPS

From Page 2

law enforcement officials involved in the fight against drugs in our closely-knit community.

Our officers are on the front lines witnessing the pain and hardship associated with substance abuse. This is not a joke to us and our families, and we should expect more from an elected official.

"As an elected official, Propst has a moral obligation to provide solutions for our community but, instead, he continues to perpetuate a culture of fear and mistrust of our law enforcement officers, who put their lives on the line every day for the safety and security of our community.

"Propst's social media post is false and unbecoming of an elected official. At a time when we should be coming together to solve the problems and issues of our Commonwealth, the representative's social media posts have been divisive and unproductive toward the shared goal of bettering our community.

"I was appalled and dismayed upon receiving the news of this offensive post. DPS calls for a public apology from Rep. Propst to our over 260 police officers who serve our community with quiet honor and dignity," said Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero. ***(PR)***

USING $847,737 DOI GRANT

All inefficient streetlights to be replaced with LED lights

Using a U.S. Department of the Interior grant awarded to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., CUC is preparing to replace all high-pressure sodium streetlights that line CNMI roads with energy-efficient LED lights.

In his report to the CUC board on Monday, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the project, called the CNMI Streetlight Efficiency Project, will start in the next few months or at the beginning of fiscal year 2020.

Using an $847,737 grant that the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs awarded CUC in 2018, the project will transform the CNMI's road lighting system by replacing high-powered and inefficient sodium streetlights with LED lights.

Phase 1 of the project will focus on Tinian and Rota, Camacho said. Tinian will get 258 LED streetlights; Rota will get 561.

CUC's Power Division estimates that the project will be completed in 209 working days.

As for Saipan, Camacho said the Power Division will address this through a proposal submittal known as Phase 2 of the CNMI Streetlight Efficient Project. The Power Division will submit a proposal in December 2019 as part of the DOI-semi-annual efficiency grant.

Power restoration efforts only apply to Saipan and Tinian as both islands were severely affected by Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in October, 2018 but the efficiency grant will also address Rota, Camacho said.

This grant, he said, will also replace all the high-pressure sodium streetlights on Rota with LED streetlights.

Camacho said all the assets needed for streetlights restoration are already on Saipan.

The U.S. Office of Insular Affairs awarded CUC the grant in 2018 to implement energy savings and cost-savings measures on its roadway lighting system.

Camacho said LED lights will require lower power use. "You can get 250 lumens out of 90 watts," he said. That's about two-thirds lower use of power compared to the sodium lamps. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kagman waste transfer station approved

A residential solid waste transfer station will soon operate in Kagman, adding to the lone transfer station in Lower Base.

The Commonwealth Zoning board approved yesterday the Department of Public Works-Solid Waste Management Division's request to rezone the Kagman lot from agricultural to rural to make way for a new Kagman Residential Solid Waste Transfer Station.

The transfer station will serve as a collection point facility for residents in the area, and will be built in the area right off Kagman Road, fronting Gabgab Drive, for easier access, to address the community's solid waste management concerns.

The rezoning of the lots to rural zoning district is not expected to affect the uses of surrounding areas, which are zoned as rural and agricultural.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said the rezoning of the lot to "rural" would still maintain "agricultural farming" as the primary purpose of the areas designated as agricultural.

"Relevant conditions shall be imposed on any permits to ensure that operations will not create negative impact on the environment, adjacent properties, and the community," Ogumoro added.

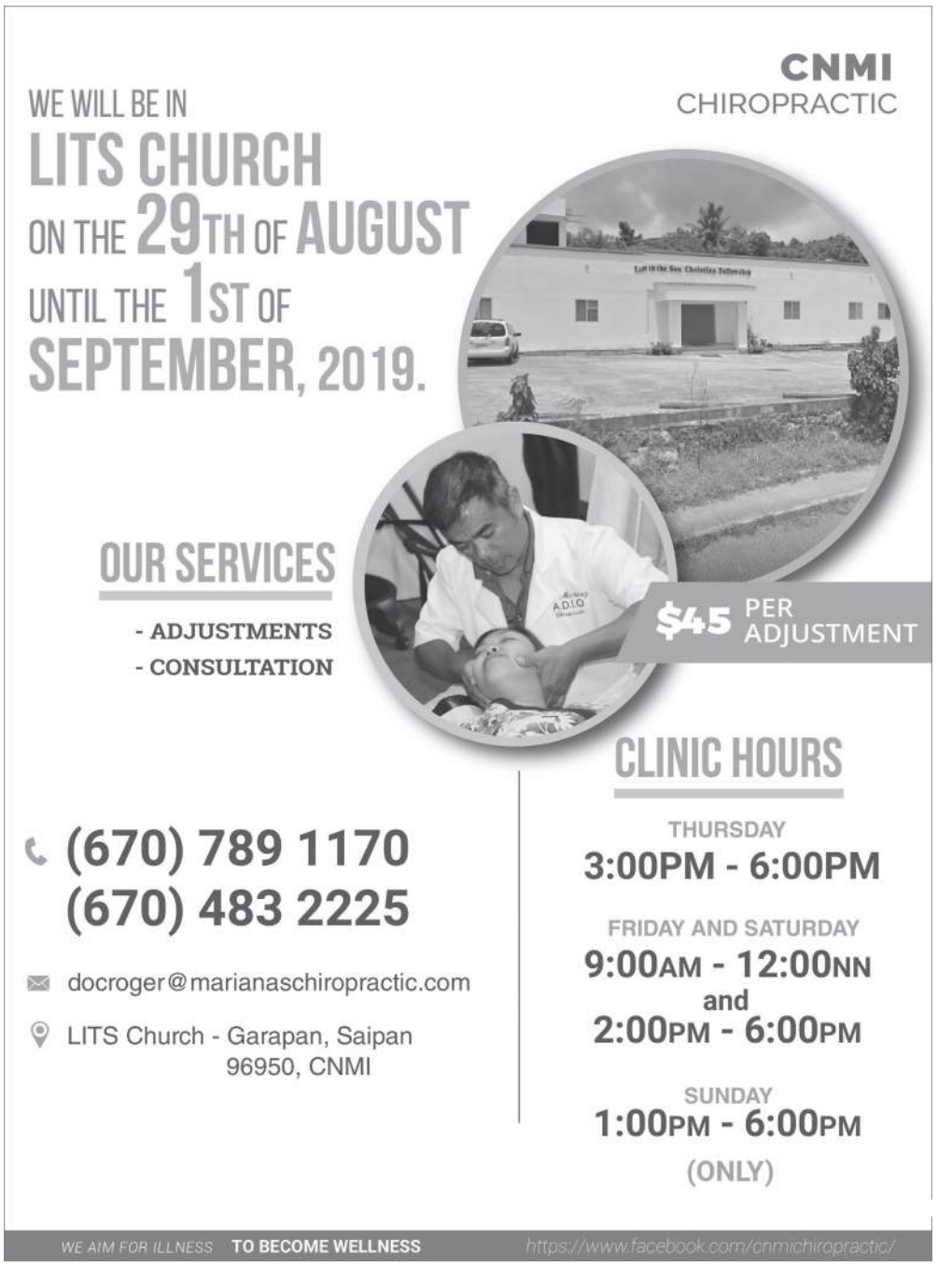
Speaking in his personal capacity in support of the transfer station, DPW Administrative Services director Peter Camacho said he lives near the area and the operation of a transfer station in Kagman would help his family in disposing of their recyclables.

About 90% of residential wastes in the area are being collected by trash-collection companies. The transfer station will be for these residential wastes. No commercial collectors could dump and take a short cut.

Zoning board member Frank Aguon expressed support for the facility. Aguon said that putting a transfer station to facilitate trash collection in the area is necessary because the trash problem there is rampant. "The trash is everywhere. It is necessary that we solve the problem. To be environment-friendly, we need to have a facility," Aguon said. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be daily scheduled water service interruptions from today, Aug. 28, to Friday, Aug. 30, from 8:30am to 3:30pm for the areas of As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag, and portions of As Mahetog. A contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., AIC Marianas, Inc., and CUC's leak detection personnel will be conducting leak detections for damaged water lines along with repairs throughout the affected areas as part of an ongoing leak detection and repair project. This project will enhance CUC's capability to isolate problematic areas in the future to perform repairs and maintenance and reduce inconvenience to our consumers. ***(CUC)***



OPEN INTERVIEW DAYS
Aug. 29th
12pm to 3pm | HR Office

* To expedite the interview process, it is recommended to bring a completed job application with resume to the interview.

Rooms Division
- Executive Housekeeper
- Front Office Manager
- Housekeeping Room Attendant

Food & Beverage
- Bartender
- Restaurant Manager

Finance & Admin.
- Night Auditor
- Computer Support Specialist

Culinary
- Cook
- Chef de Partie (Supervisor)
- Executive Sous Chef (Head Cook)

Sports Entertainment & Activities
COMING SOON

*These are temporary, full-time positions and are open to eligible US citizens.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

For inquiries by telephone call (670)234-7976 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm) or email resume to hrcoordinator@picsaipan.com.

Pick up an application at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, San Antonio Street (Security Office) or online at www.picresorts.com/saipan/careers.

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MPLT loan amendment now law

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law yesterday legislation that amended the language in the Marianas Public Lands Trust fund loan to satisfy preferences recommended by the Office of the Attorney General.

Torres enacted House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-71 yesterday afternoon, making it Public Law 21-6.

The new law amends Public Law 21-3, or the law authorizing the CNMI government to enter into a loan with MPLT.

P.L. 21-6 clarified some of the purposes of the loan at the recommendation of the OAG, according to Attao in a previous interview.

Under the new law, the loan shall be used to pay for emergency disaster relief and recovery expenses the Commonwealth government incurred as a result of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.

The loan's purpose also included a reimbursement of expenses that the Commonwealth government shouldered due to the typhoon.

P.L. 21-6 amends the parameters of the MPLT loan. The legislation would allow the initial five-year time frame of the loan to be longer if agreed to. Attao told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that the language originated from the OAG.

He further noted that Public Law 21-3, or the law that authorizes the CNMI to start negotiating a public debt in the form of an MPLT loan, was enacted with the understanding that the Legislature will pass a bill amending P.L. 21-3 according to the preferences of the OAG.

NMI Museum reopens with fresh exhibits

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visitors of the reopened NMI Museum of History and Culture can expect a fresh take on the CNMI's rich history, dating from the Latte Period to the introduction of Catholicism, to the Galleon Trade to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The 93-year old NMI Museum, which is the old Japanese hospital, recently completed the first phase of its upgrades and has reopened its doors to the public with a facelift and some new attractions.

Among the new attractions are religious artifacts, including the 1934 *Missale Romanum* (a Latin Mass book), a chalice estimated to be nearly 100 years old, and a pre-war Monstrance of the Blessed Sacrament. The artifacts are on loan from Bishop Ryan Jimenez of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Twenty-five of the 156 pottery storage jars from the sunken galleon *Nuestra Senora dela Concepcion* are also on display as part of the museum's Concepcion Collection. These jars were recovered in 1987 from the 2,000-ton, 45-meter long Manila galleon that sank in 1638.

For the Concepcion Collection, the NMI museum added large formatted vinyl pictures and new display cases, donated by Marian Aldan-Pierce and T-Galleria, to showcase the Spanish Galleon gold collections, said NMI Museum director Daniel Aquino Jr. These are the same gold pieces that the museum has displayed for years. Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang also helped the museum in the storage and in transporting the display cases.

"The Concepcion exhibit is about the Spanish period, when the Manila-Spanish trade routes were being established. We are fortunate enough that we are able to recover this. …This collection is exclusive to Saipan," Aquino said.

Aquino added that the museum upgrades were necessary in order to continue attracting visitors, to improve the museum's appeal, and to promote the museum as one of the must-see tourist attractions on Saipan.

The NMI Museum commissioned Guam Museum's Gerry Dizon to update its exhibits.

"The NMI Museum is very fortunate to have Gerry Dizon come down because he was able to recruit helping hands from Guam that included Dededo Mayor Savares, Vangie Lujan and Edith Perez, and Annie Mesa Makepeace," Aquino said, citing the long hours the group put in to complete the project.

The Guam Museum was contracted to execute this project for various reasons—the close proximity between Guam and Saipan, the reasonable costs to perform the refresh, the technical expertise, the in-house design team they had and because of the experience they possessed, having recently completed an over $1.5-million upgrade of the Guam Museum.

The complete refresh and upgrades will be performed in three phases.

Phase 1, which consists of the Concepcion Collection and the Seafarers, has already been completed. Phase 2 will be the completion of the Pre-Latte and Latte period, and Phase 3, will form NMI Museum's communications facility (television/computer monitors) and the balance of the different periods that have not been refreshed. Phase 3 is expected to be completed by October 2019.

The NMI Museum is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, and Saturdays at 10am to 4pm. For more information, call 664-2160.

Religious artifacts and the updated Concepcion Collection are some of the attractions at the newly-refreshed NMI Museum.
IVA MAURIN

3 claims in lawyer's suit vs E-Land, others dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has dismissed three of the four claims in attorney Vincent Deleon Guerrero Torres' lawsuit against E-Land World Co. Ltd. and others.

In an order on Monday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed Torres' claims for fraudulent concealment and usurpation of corporate opportunity, breach of fiduciary duty, and assisting a breach of fiduciary duty.

Camacho ruled that shareholders lack standing to maintain claims for corporate harms as direct actions, and such claims must be brought derivatively, regardless of the size of the corporation.

A derivative action refers to a lawsuit brought by a shareholder of a corporation on behalf of the corporation to enforce or defend a legal right or claim.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Torres yesterday.

Torres sued the defendants for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans of over $5 million without proper authorization.

Named as defendants in Torres' lawsuit are E-Land World Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesian Resort Inc., and Dennis Seo.

E-Land is the majority shareholder of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Suwaso Corp. owns COP.

In 2012, Marianas Resort Inc. and Yusuke Fumoto agreed to sell his 85% ownership interest in Suwaso to Marianas Resort Inc. Torres remains a minority shareholder of Suwaso stock, holding a 15% ownership interest.

Torres' third claim or cause of action (usurped corporate opportunity) is predicated on an alleged injury to Suwaso and seeks redress belonging to Suwaso.

Torres, through counsel William Fitzgerald, alleged that E-land embarked upon a scheme to wrongfully misappropriate business opportunities and the funds they generated from Suwaso.

Torres alleged that the defendants continue to secretly, deceitfully, and wrongfully appropriate the funds of Suwaso for the benefit of E-Land through E-Land's VIP membership program.

In his ruling, Camacho said any harm to Torres is necessarily derivative of the alleged harm to Suwaso.

Likewise, Torres' allegation that E-land has "fraudulently concealed this unauthorized usurpation of Suwaso's business opportunity" states a viable claim only if there was some usurped business opportunity to conceal, and thus alleges a harm that is wholly derivative of the alleged injury to Suwaso, Camacho said.

Thus, he said, Torres' third cause of action cannot be maintained as a direct action, and must be dismissed.

Camacho said the breach of fiduciary duty claims that are predicated on corporate management, like Torres' fourth cause of action, are also derivative. This is because any mismanagement of corporate assets harms the corporation first and any injury to the shareholder is necessarily derivative of that alleged harm, he added.

Further underscoring the derivative nature of Torres' fourth cause of action, Camacho said, is the fact that the only injury alleged is loss of stock value—a harm that courts have consistently characterized as a corporate harm.

In short, Camacho said, Torres' fourth cause of action seeks redress for harms to Suwaso, cannot be maintained as a direct action, and must be dismissed.

The judge said Torres' fifth cause of action against E-Land and its agents (for "assisting" alleged breaches of fiduciary duty by MRI and Suwaso's directors) must be dismissed for the same reasons.

Camacho said all of the conduct Torres identifies as giving rise to a breach of fiduciary duty (corporate waste, usurpation of corporate opportunity) could only constitute a breach of fiduciary duties owed to Suwaso.

In short, the judge said, Torres' authorities are either distinguishable or fundamentally not on point, and his attempt to recast classic corporate injuries as injuries unique to him fails as a matter of law and fact.

Camacho said Torres' fifth claim for "assisting a breach of fiduciary duty" seeks to redress an alleged corporate harm, cannot be maintained as a direct action, and must be dismissed.

Torres originally filed the suit in the Superior Court. The defendants then moved to transfer the lawsuit to the District Court.

The defendants, though counsel Richard W. Pierce, also moved the District Court to compel all Torres' claims to arbitration before the American Arbitration Association.

In April 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Torres' motion to remand his four remaining claims to the Superior Court.

Manglona granted the defendants' motion to compel arbitration as to Torres' first cause of action—fraudulent misrepresentation.

Having granted defendants' motion to compel arbitration as to the lawyer's first cause of action, Manglona said she will dismiss the claim and retain jurisdiction to enforce any arbitration.

Robert T. Torres, Lee H. Rubin, and Justin I. Park are counsel for defendants.

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Further underscoring the derivative nature of Torres' fourth cause of action, Camacho said, is the fact that the only injury alleged is loss of stock value—a harm that courts have consistently characterized as a corporate harm.

In short, Camacho said, Torres' fourth cause of action seeks redress for harms to Suwaso, cannot be maintained as a direct action, and must be dismissed.

The judge said Torres' fifth cause of action against E-Land and its agents (for "assisting" alleged breaches of fiduciary duty by MRI and Suwaso's directors) must be dismissed for the same reasons.

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In short, the judge said, Torres' authorities are either distinguishable or fundamentally not on point, and his attempt to recast classic corporate injuries as injuries unique to him fails as a matter of law and fact.

Camacho said Torres' fifth claim for "assisting a breach of fiduciary duty" seeks to redress an alleged corporate harm, cannot be maintained as a direct action, and must be dismissed.

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Robert T. Torres, Lee H. Rubin, and Justin I. Park are counsel for defendants.

Photo shows a Pacific sheath-tailed bat. ERNIE VALDEZ/USGS

Lawsuit seeks to protect habitat of 23 Micronesian species

The Center for Biological Diversity will be suing the Trump administration, after accusing it of failing to protect critical habitat for 23 endangered species in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The wildlife involved include 14 plants and nine animals, according to the Center for Biological Diversity's notice of intent to sue that was filed yesterday.

According to the filing, these species, such as the Pacific sheath-tailed bat and Slevin's skink, "desperately need" protected habitat and are at immediate risk from agricultural and urban sprawl, military expansion and training, invasive species, fire, typhoons, sea-level rise and climate change.

"Unique Pacific Island species like the Mariana eight-spot butterfly needed habitat protection years ago, but they're not getting it from the Trump administration," said Ryan Shannon, a staff attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The federal government and different military branches have been responsible for a lot of the problems on these islands. Our nation has a duty to protect the natural heritage of these special places."

In 2015 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed 23 plant and animal species in greater Micronesia as endangered or threatened. The Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for any threatened and endangered species, but the agency has failed to designate critical habitat for any of these species.

"Species with designated critical habitat are twice as likely to be recovering as those without it," Shannon said. "To save these animals and plants from extinction, we have to protect the places where they live."

Listing a species as endangered or threatened is just the first step in ensuring a species' survival and recovery. Critical habitat protections would prohibit federal actions that would destroy or harm such habitat and will help conserve what remains of these species' limited native range.

Pacific sheath-tailed bat: This tiny insectivorous, sac-winged bat has already been extirpated from Guam and the island of Vanuatu. Across its remaining range, it is threatened by habitat destruction from nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change.

Slevin's skink: Also known as the Mariana skink, this social creature has already been extirpated from Guam. The rest of its range is also threatened by habitat destruction from nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change. Military training puts the skink at risk of direct harm from live-fire training exercises.

Mariana eight-spot butterfly: Native to Guam and Saipan, the butterfly is no longer found on Saipan. It is reliant on two host plant species, one of which is used as a native medicinal plant to treat various ailments. In addition to being threatened by parasitic wasps, the butterfly's habitat is similarly threatened by nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change.

Guam tree snail: Found only in Guam, this once-common, air-breathing snail is now critically endangered. In addition to the common habitat threats listed above, the Guam tree snail is threatened by fire and overcollection for commercial and recreational purposes.

Bulbophyllum guamense*:** Part of the Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program, this orchid has a greenish-yellow flower that smells faintly of carrion. In the past the plant occurred in common large mat-like formations on trees. However, in addition to habitat-based threats, the orchid is being hurt by predation from non-native slugs. ***(PR)

JOSEPH M. ALDAN
Marla Ann Cabrera
DanDan P.O. Box 503910
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 670-288-1975/287-1595/285-9616

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: J.Z.C.A. Minor Child BY: JOSEPH M. ALDAN & MARLA ANN CABRERA PETITIONER (S)	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0309 NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER IS SET FOR A HEARING ON 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019 AT 9:00 AM IN COURTROOM MBP, BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE KIM-TENORIO.

DATED THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2019.

/S/ PATRICK V. DIAZ, DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance 28th, 2nd August 2019 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from July 31, 2019

II. Public Comment

III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. Committee
   a. Committee on Awards
   b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
   c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
   d. Committee on Program and Development
   e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business
1. Amendment to SHEFA Bylaws
2. Saipan Local Law 21-5

V. New Business
1. Fall 2019 Application Status
2. FY 2020 Budget Proposal

VI. Executive Session

VII. Misc.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW19-ITB-016

SUBMISSION DATE: September 23, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Apengahg St. and Ghilis St. Road and Drainage Improvement"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 6, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 12, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB19-CHCC/IT-MIHI-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 06, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

"IT EQUIPMENT - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH INITIATIVE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2019-006

Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Proposal package will be available on **August 28, 2019** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of fifty dollars ($50.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on September 09, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447, or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Kimo M. Rosario
Acting-Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD19-RFP-005

SUBMISSION DATE: October 16, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"MARPI LANDFILL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **PRE-PROPOSAL** SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON **September 30, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE Marpi Landfill WALK THROUGH.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 10, 2019**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

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/s/JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Alleged overstayer found working as taxi driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal agents arrested last Friday an alleged overstaying Chinese tourist who was found working as an illegal taxi driver on Saipan.

Xiaomei Wu was brought before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy Monday afternoon for his initial appearance hearing.

Robert T. Torres appeared as court-appointed counsel for Wu. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, filed a motion to detain Wu pending trial.

» Defendant managed to obtain CNMI driver's license using fake documents

The detention hearing was held yesterday.

According to Nicole Sively, special agent with Homeland Security Investigations, Federal Protective Services officer Sean White encountered Wu for an alleged traffic violation last Thursday.

Wu was allegedly in the driver's seat of a Toyota sedan at the Marina Heights Business Plaza.

In her affidavit in support of a complaint, Sively said that Wu presented his CNMI driver's license to White and stated he was an illegal taxi driver.

White then contacted HSI for assistance and requested that a check be conducted on Wu for possible outstanding warrants.

During the records checks, HSI discovered that Wu is a citizen of the People's Republic of China who had overstayed his CNMI-only conditional parole, Sively said.

Records showed that Wu entered the CNMI on March 3, 2017, and was granted a CNMI-only conditional parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that was to last until March 11, 2017.

Sively said that Wu overstayed his authorized parole date and is therefore subject to being deported.

Since Wu had no legal immigration status, HSI personnel contacted the CNMI Bureau of Motor Vehicles personnel about the driver's license that Wu had, Sively said.

HSI personnel reviewed the records that Wu presented at BMV and found that a U.S. immigration form I-797A indicating he is a CW1 worker is fraudulent. The alien number listed on the I-797A form was a valid alien number but was not assigned to Wu. Records also showed that Wu's name and date of birth revealed no immigration petitions for him, including CW-1.

During her questioning, Sively said, Wu stated he was working in Garapan and that one of the workers introduced him to someone who could assist him in obtaining a driver's license.

Wu claimed that the person he later identified as "Uncle Zhang" took him to BMV and assisted him as an English translator.

Wu claimed he took written test in English and took the driving test a few times before passing.

The defendant said it was Uncle Zhang who filled out his driver's license application.

Wu said he only provided Uncle Zhang with his passport and Chinese driver's license.

Wu said he did not give Uncle Zhang cash for his help, but instead bought him dinner and about $400-$500 worth of groceries.

US delegation takes part in Pacific forum in Tuvalu

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt has wrapped up his trip to Tuvalu as head of the U.S. delegation to the 31st Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue, which took place on Aug. 16, 2019.

The high-level U.S. government delegation was composed of senior officials from the White House, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

While in Tuvalu, Bernhardt held bilateral meetings with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga, Fiji Foreign Minister Inia Batikoto Seruiratu, and Norikazu Suzuki, Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In addition, the U.S. delegation held a breakfast roundtable with Pacific Islands Forum leaders, and jointly met with the delegations from the Freely Associated States, in meetings led by Federated States of Micronesia President David Panuelo, Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to Fiji Tregar Albon Ishoda, and Republic of Palau Minister of State Faustina Rehuher-Marugg.

"It was truly an honor to lead the United States delegation as a Forum Dialogue Partner and meet with the Pacific Island leaders at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu," said Bernhardt. "The United States is a Pacific nation, and our country has a deep and longstanding commitment to the future security, prosperity, and wellbeing of the region. This commitment starts at the very top with President Trump, who recently hosted the Presidents of FSM, RMI, and Palau for a historic meeting at the White House. As a part of the President's Indo-Pacific Strategy, the United States annually appropriates $350 million for projects, assistance, and operations in the Pacific, including the Department of the Interior's three new freshwater resilience technical assistance projects that will focus on water and sanitation, drought management, and hydropower."

On the way to Tuvalu, Bernhardt also stopped in Hawaii at the Indo-Pacific Command, underscoring the fact that the Pacific Islands are key to the President's vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. The United States is engaged and committed to advancing a regional order based on respect for sovereignty and the rule of law.

The DOI, leveraging Bureau of Reclamation expertise and Office of Insular Affairs funding, has recently engaged the utilities in the FAS to help improve the management of hydropower in Pohnpei, FSM; enhance the operating efficiency of the Majuro, RMI utility; and make Palau more drought-resilient through smart water management. These three initiatives will provide technical support to the three FAS to support the water supply and drought management in particular. This investment will total $400,000.

In addition, the DOI, led by the National Park Service, will host a summit in Guam on historic preservation and World Heritage in December for the FAS and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Bernhardt bears responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI in the region. DOI also administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Douglas W. Domenech, Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs support DOI's mission of upholding trust and related responsibilities by balancing efforts and resources to support stronger health, education, and economic capacities, along with promoting fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas. ***(PR)***

The U.S. Delegation to the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in Tuvalu.

COURTESY PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 28, 2000

House approves $222M budget

The House of Representatives approved the FY 2001 budget package on Friday amounting to $221.66 million, augmenting spending limit by the legislative and judicial branches as well as key government agencies. For the first time, lawmakers also agreed to transfer responsibility of paying government utilities to each department or agency in an effort to encourage power and water conservation in public offices. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio had asked a change in the current payment system when he handed the budget proposal to the Legislature in April on the heels of the government's mounting obligations to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Feds scrap funding for Tinian breakwater repair

Repair of the dilapidated Tinian breakwater suffered yet another halt after funding for a feasibility study that was supposed to be carried out by the United States Army Corps of Engineers has been reportedly scrapped from its Fiscal Year 2001 budget. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the sudden change in the program was reported to him during his visit to Hawaii last week, where he was also informed that the $100,000 budget for the study will not be available until the succeeding fiscal year. The $100,000 budget has been earmarked by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study on the extent of the breakwater's damage in order to identify how much work should be done and how much money is needed to restore the facility.

August 28, 2005

House passes personal liability bill on illegal reprogramming

The majority members of the House of Representatives passed a bill Friday that aims to hold personally liable any government employee who illegally reprograms or knowingly receives illegally reprogrammed funds. The House said this proposal, contained in House Bill 14-249, accomodates the recommendation of the Office of the Public Auditor on the issue of illegal reprogramming. Under the bill, which was introduced by Rep. Jesus Lizama, no funds shall be reprogrammed to any account which has been zero-funded by the Legislature or to any account for which the Legislature has not made an appropriation. The Legislature had also approved to reprogram $5.8 million of Kagman wastewater funds for the completion of the hemodialysis project.

House OKs another tax amnesty program

Saying that the two previous tax amnesty programs failed to net all delinquent taxpayers, the House of Representatives has passed a bill that aims to grant another 180-day amnesty period in the CNMI. Authored by Rep. Clyde Norita and Vice Speaker Timothy P. Villagomez, House Bill 14-372 said that "a third amnesty program should be established because an amnesty period is still the most cost-effective way for the government to collect tax revenue during these difficult times." If enacted, the proposal would allow taxpayers to settle their outstanding debts with the government without paying penalty and interests. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

August 28, 2008

'New generators will boost CUC revenue'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. should see a 20- to 25-percent increase in revenue once the new Aggreko generators are up and running, CUC executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday. The Aggreko generators will allow for a more reliable power source for the public. The island is currently undergoing three- to four-hour rotating outages daily, with some villages experiencing outages of seven or eight hours. The generators are expected to provide an additional15 to 18 megawatts of power. CUC is counting on Power Plant 4 to provide 14 megawatts, and Power Plant 1 10 megawatts, for a total of 39 to 42 megawatts. The price of power for the month of September will decrease because fuel prices have gone down, but more people will be using more power, allowing for greater revenue for CUC, Muna said.

Forum preps biz for federalization, military buildup

The pending federal takeover of local immigration rules and the upcoming military buildup on Guam were key issues Thursday at a first ever business forum organized by the Commonwealth Development Authority and Department of Commerce. The forum, held at World Resort, drew a significant crowd and included presentations on the impact of the newly signed "federalization" bill, immigration and labor issues and potential business opportunities in the region. In opening remarks, Gov. Benigno Fitial singled out the major military expansion on Guam in the near future as a key chance for the CNMI to bolster its economy.

MRA holds final Okinawa peace memorial

IVA MAURIN

The rain fails to dampen the spirits of the 140 Okinawans who honored departed World War II casualties at the 50th Okinawa Peace Memorial at the Okinawa Peace Tower in Marpi.

IVA MAURIN

Okinawa Gov. Yasuhiro Tamaki prays at the incense offering during the 50th Okinawa Peace Memorial at the Okinawa Peace Tower in Marpi.

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association capped their yearly pilgrimage to the CNMI yesterday with the 50th Okinawa Peace Memorial at the Okinawa Peace Tower in Marpi, which was graced by the presence of Okinawa Gov. Yasuhiro Tamaki himself.

That means yesterday's event will be the last pilgrimage of the MRA to the CNMI.

In his speech at the memorial, Tamaki expressed gratefulness to the CNMI for the many years that the Commonwealth has supported the memorial service.

"We Okinawans have renewed our determination to pass to the next generation the lessons we gained from the bitter experiences during the past world war. We also want to work toward the building of a peaceful society in which the dignity of all people, regardless of nationality and race, will be respected, with no one left behind," Tamaki said.

He also wished for the everlasting prosperity of the Commonwealth.

The MRA has been holding the annual pilgrimage to the island for 50 years now, through Pacific Development Inc., to ensure that the people of Okinawa and the people of the Marianas continue to maintain the relationship between them. Many of the Japanese people who lived in the CNMI before World War II trace their ancestry to Okinawa.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who attended the memorial ceremony, extended his appreciation to MRA and all Okinawans for what they have done throughout the years to honor departed loved ones, and for the Okinawa Peace Tower in Marpi itself that allows the people of both countries to foster a relationship that has lasted more than 50 years.

"I am also personally thankful to Gov. Tamaki that he was able to come…[which is] a great honor for us to have [him] here. Although this is their last year, we hope that the young generation would appreciate the history that we have between two countries, our island Saipan and the CNMI," Torres said.

Torres also confirmed that arrangements to create sister-city ties between Saipan and Okinawa are in the works.

"We have so much cultural relation with Okinawa. A lot of our fishermen and our farmers back then came from Okinawa. This relationship is something that we want to continue and hope that soon, we can have a learning workforce between Okinawa and Saipan," he said.

For this year's celebration, MRA invited all the local families who started the event with the Okinawans, said PDI managing director Gordon I. Marciano.

With this year's ceremony being the last leg for the original Okinawans, there is a plan to establish a new chapter, to establish what was done years back in terms of cultural exchange.

The group is going to Tinian today to meet with the Mayor Edwin Aldan, to share the dream of establishing the sister-city program. The group will also visit the Marianas Visitors Authority, meet with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang on Thursday, then with the Japan Council of the CNMI.

Nominations still being accepted for 2019 Bridge of Light awardee

Nominations for the 2019 Bridge of Light Award are still being accepted until Sept. 6, 2019, by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

The award is given each year to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one extraordinary individual or community hero who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

The nominee may be a service provider, first responder, representative, or volunteer at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI, and who has been there for a minimum of one year. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices.

To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=uYY_2FpGIXfgbIyABgKeXjcA_3D_3D. Hard copy nomination forms may also be submitted to the NMCADSV office located in Suite 206 of the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation (Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm).

It is strongly encouraged that those nominating be as detailed and thorough as possible on the form to show why their nominee is deserving of the award as those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based on the information provided.

The deadline to submit completed nomination forms is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019.

The recipient of the 2019 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety's officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services' executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services' counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc.'s executive director Diana Camacho, and most recently, the Attorney General Office's victim advocate John Aguon.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

Oba Sushi chefs kick off CHCC's Guest Chef series

By MARC VENUS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. kicked off its Guest Chef series yesterday at the CHCC cafeteria with the culinary talents of Oba Sushi chefs Juan Diaz and Kindo Villagomez, in a program meant to showcase local chefs and promote heathy meals.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, the series provides opportunities for local chefs to showcase their talents, serve nutritional meals, and provide charitable support for the unmet needs of CHCC patients.

The series is expected to continue over the next few weeks, and updates will be posted on CHCC's Facebook page.

Travis said the chefs worked with the CHCC's dietary and nutrition staff to make sure that the meals they are offering are up to the CHCC's health and nutrition standards.

The food provided in this series is available to both Commonwealth Health Center patients and non-patients. Those who wanted to buy the food had to pre-order, since the food is delivered to the cafeteria. Yesterday, Oba Sushi provided a variety of sushi rolls such as the Crunch Rolls, Spicy Tuna Rolls, Northern Lights Rolls, and the Lover's Avenue.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oba Saipan chefs Juan Diaz, left, and Kindo Villagomez pose for a photo yesterday at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's cafeteria.

"In addition to promoting local businesses, the guest chef also helps the CHCC financially, as we can save on the cost of supplies and staff time," Travis said.

The guest chefs also benefit. They receive the majority of the proceeds. Travis said that CHCC will not be making any profit out of the sales.

She said that this move is considered as a cost-saving measure, since CHCC won't be using its own resources for the series.

Travis said a number of restaurants have the chance to participate, including several restaurants in the CNMI Nutrition Council's Biba Program, such as Everest Kitchen, Caravan of Foods, and Shirley's Coffee Shop.

"All of the Biba establishments have already been approved by the nutritionist and the dietitian and they will get a chance to be part of the series," she said.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

China should keep its promise on Hong Kong

China should commit to its promise to uphold Hong Kong's autonomy until 2047.

Erosion of this promise has accelerated under Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 outlined a framework for how Hong Kong would operate for 50 years after Britain handed the city back to China in 1997. However, certain aspects, such as separate judicial, economic and governmental systems, have been slowly diluted.

The now-suspended 2019 extradition bill—which critics claim would have given Beijing the authority to extradite and try political dissidents residing in Hong Kong—was the last straw for many Hong Kongers. Their protests began against the bill, but demonstrators now demand greater democracy and controls.

In response, Beijing has flexed its muscles via thinly veiled threats to protesters, including footage of troops carrying out "anti-riot" exercises while speaking Cantonese (spoken in Hong Kong), and most recently conducting paramilitary exercises in Shenzhen, a city on the border with Hong Kong.

Many of the world's democracies are on standby. Britain's foreign secretary tweeted last week to condemn the violence and encouraged "constructive dialogue to find a peaceful way forward." Britain also had banned sales of crowd-control equipment, such as tear gas, to Hong Kong police in June after early clashes between protesters and police. A statement by Canada and the European Union stressed support of Hong Kong's "high degree of autonomy," which almost immediately prompted the Chinese embassy in Ottawa to warn Canada to "stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs." The U.S. State Department released a statement urging Beijing to abide by its promise to the city.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong faces its 11th week of protests. Recently, an estimated 1.7 million peaceful demonstrators marched through the streets, according to organizers, after violent clashes that closed the Hong Kong International Airport. Tensions flared once more at a sit-in at a train station on Aug. 21.

President Donald Trump's trade fight with China, as well as his lack of interest in having the United States be a leader in protecting human rights, has made him reluctant to get involved. However, many in Congress are sympathetic to the protesters. Trump also could suspend U.S. exports of crowd-control equipment to Hong Kong—a move for which there is bipartisan support. Trump seems wary of directly condemning Beijing, though after weeks of vague comments he finally did say he "would like to see Hong Kong worked out in a very humanitarian way" and that violent interference by China in Hong Kong would make it "very hard to deal" toward a solution to the trade war.

Even if Trump did voice a condemnation, it is doubtful that his words would stop China. The United States is not exactly a role model, having pulled out of international agreements such as the Paris climate agreement, the Iran nuclear deal and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. In the rise of authoritarian forces around the world, the Trump administration once again is failing to be a beacon for democracy.

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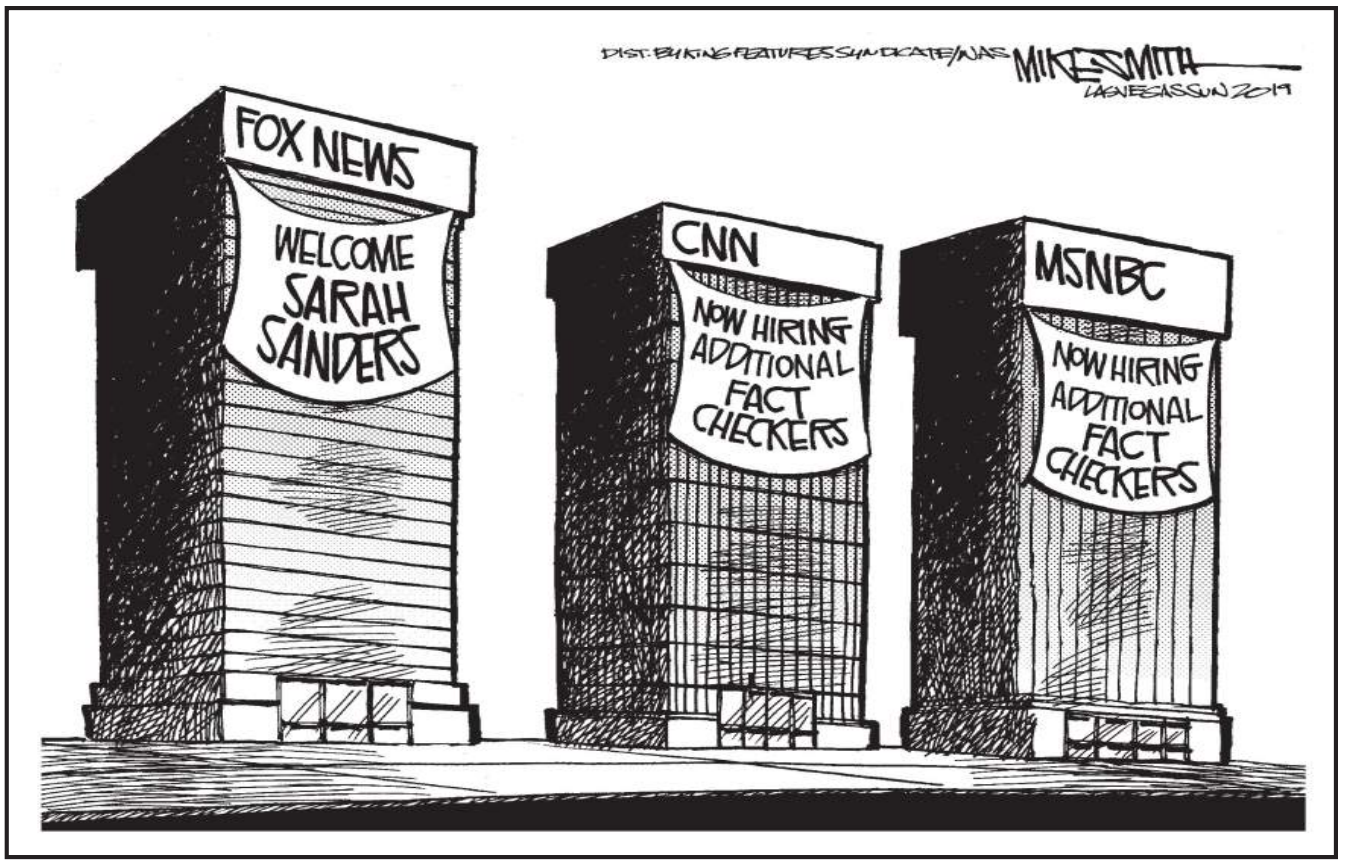

Why many Chinese students can't understand the HK protests

By YAQIU WANG
Los Angeles Times

Yaqiu Wang is a China researcher at Human Rights Watch.

It's hard for Americans to understand why so many Chinese students attending school in Western countries have turned out in recent days to express support for the Chinese government in its current conflict with Hong Kong protesters. The Chinese students have tried to shout down demonstrators at pro-democracy rallies in the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

I don't agree with the students' pro-Beijing sentiments on Hong Kong, but I think I understand them. They remind me of myself when I first came to the U.S. to study in 2009.

Soon after arriving, I saw protests in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, organized by Tibetans in exile, but I couldn't make sense of them. Weren't Tibetans happy with the high-speed trains and nice buildings the Chinese had built? Weren't Tibetans making more money doing business with the Chinese? These were among the questions I asked the Tibetans who reached out to me seeking friendship—people born in refugee camps in India to parents who fled Tibet while dodging bullets from Chinese guns.

I'm grateful that my Tibetan friends responded to my misguided questions with understanding instead of condescension. Even so, it took me several years to be able to understand on an emotional level the sufferings of many Tibetans in China. My thinking about Tibet had been fully shaped by Chinese propaganda, which held that China had freed Tibetans from serfdom and brought them prosperity and happiness. I had no access to contrary opinions because of government censorship, so I couldn't fathom that Tibetans were self-immolating to protest the severe suppression of their language, culture and identity.

Studies show that overseas Chinese students—totaling about 1.5 million, including more than 300,000 in the United States—still rely on information from China's heavily censored internet and media. That helps explain the fervor demonstrated by some of the anti-Hong Kong protesters. But it is deeper than that.

For those us who grew up in a system where information control is all-encompassing, processing ideas contrary to what we were taught and believed all our lives is not easy. It takes an innate curiosity, constant reading of uncensored information and self-reflective thinking—none of which are encouraged in China.

Unlearning untrue information and the beliefs it engenders can take a lifetime. I left China a decade ago, but today I still occasionally question the truthfulness of certain knowledge I have—because I learned it in school in China.

When Chinese students step outside of China to study, they are struggling to adapt to a new education system, and are frequently confronted—in class, in daily life, and online—with assumptions that they have been "brainwashed by the Chinese government." It makes some feel attacked and reaffirms what they were taught in China: The West is biased and hostile.

All that helps explain why pro-Hong Kong posters on the campus of University of Tasmania in Australia were repeatedly torn down. The main Chinese student group at the university published a statement calling the posters an "insult to China." It said the group "resolutely defends the motherland's unity ... resolutely opposes any act that attempts to split China." Such language comes straight out of the Chinese government propaganda lexicon. To these students, their earlier teachings remain the only way they can argue or even think about politically contentious issues.

This is doubtless what the Chinese government intends. It is only human to want to speak one's mind, but when years of conditioning teach people that having one's own thoughts and speaking them can bring serious reprisal, you gradually learn to avoid thinking for yourself at all.

When I was in school in China, facing incomprehensible concepts like "the scientific system of Mao Zedong thought," and "socialist system with Chinese characteristics," I told myself not to think about their meaning but just to memorize them and regurgitate them on the exams. When you live under Communist Party rule, not thinking is self-preservation.

Even emotions are calibrated by the state. We are taught to be happy about certain events, to be sad or angry about others, but never to pause and ponder why. Shortly after a friend of mine emigrated to Hong Kong from the mainland in early 1997, China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, died. My friend, then a middle school student, went to the Liaison Office, Beijing's representative in Hong Kong, to pay tribute to the fallen leader. As he was leaving the building, a local Hong Kong journalist asked him why he was crying. "At the moment, I was just dumbstruck," he told me. "'Why am I crying?' I asked myself. I didn't really know."

Even though it is challenging to expose Chinese students to fundamentally different ideas, it's important to continue interacting with them. Universities and educators should double down on respectful, nonjudgmental engagement, mindful that the students may feel compelled to appear to defend the Chinese government. Chinese authorities have long monitored and conducted surveillance on students from China on campuses around the world.

Despite the recent incidents in which some Chinese students aggressively tried to silence opinions with which they disagreed,

See WHY on Next Page

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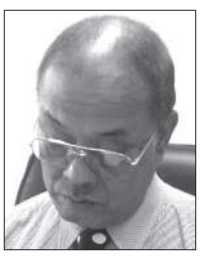


By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Hiniyuñg bisnis Japones guine silensiu ni megai ti rumepara. Marikohe fiñkas niha ya man-hanau tatte Japon.

Haf` motibu na man-hanau? Haf` tumahgue fiñkas niha ni machule` tatte gi tanu` niha?

Dispues de hinanau Japones guaha otru siña kumatsu fuetsan fiñkasña guine? Haye ennau na nasion yan kau gai kepble para u fan ayuda umadelanta tano`ta?

Dañkulu na fiñkas humuyuñg ya i mamakatña i taya` tahgueña haf` malagnus ginen ekonomian tano`ta.

Abundansia

Mampus hana` malalagu`yu` i felis na programan Presidente Trump gi bandan ekonomia giya America. Mas bula cho`chu` yan pagamientun empleau siha `nai man-obra gi inapasen nesessidat familia.

Tihu tuñgu` kau siña este machogue guine. Mauleg na mapetsige lau gai chinatsaga pot mas ke 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popbble! Estague` i dichu chanda para i manma-elihe guine—adelantu gi monedan familia--`nai tinetpe tiempun ha`ilas!

Gaige dichu asuntu gi homlu` na ekonomia. Ha nesessita kabales na planu! Sin planu pues kada mona tatte estake todus hit mangaige giya tatatte!

Siudan Taki`

Namanman i siudan Los Angeles yan San Francisco ni mahatme ni manadan familia ginen otru estadu siha. Mahutu` tento` niha ya mañaga. Mattu gi problema pot bandan hinemlu`. Mutuñg enteru dos siuda pot puru taki` maseha manu guatu.

Hu konsidedera haf` na mas ke 60-mit na familia umabandona hagas lugat niha. Kau pot taya` appottunidat cho`chu` pat haf na chinatsagan familia?

Lau kantida mumueba siha guatu gi dos lugat. Dañkulu na chanda para i siuda gi bandan gastu. Biyon pot biyon pesus este na gastu diariamente pot debi umana` fañaga gi disiente na guma`, neñkanu` yan setbisiun hinemlu`.

Kuttura

Mauleg sa` metgut trabiha sensian yine`ase` yan ina`ayuda gi halum tautau-ta. Makat giya hita para ta upus un` kilisyanu ni munesessita ausiliu. Puede ma`ug este na kustumbre gi natibu pot satbasion todu.

Sumen namagem `nai ha gacha` hit chinatsaga ya ilegña i bisinu chule` este mientras tantus. Ayu na ayudu pot kinemprende gi ha`anen tautau. Tat ti pinalo`pu chinatsaga mina ta komprende haf` che`chu` echu tautau.

Tat tihu chage antes gi un` popblen guma`. Makat gi halum miserapble na pinepble kalamten. Mit grasias gi Saina pot sessu ha kubre nesessidat mame gi halum tinaya`.

Adumididi` sige mona estake in` seda` mas yanu na plaset gi ha`anen mame. Tat pahina gi lepblon miserapble na popble tihu taitai yan bira fuetsau!

Modu

Ekonomia un` konseptu ni todu umu`usa kontodu un` amiguhu ni bumasta umeskuela gi siete gradu. Kulan mohon paketen soba` ni taya` ha nesessita soluke maipen hanum.

Todu mañgekuentus lau ni unu tumuñgu` haf` este na plantasma ni limililiku` gi señgsuñg diariu. Lau gaige este na asuntu dichu gi halum guma` familia.

Konsidera adelanto-ta `an magahet na tatuñgu` sustansiaña i attikulu. Lau masaulag chagu` ya kada humihot machagu`e mas pot chat-kinemprende.

Talayeru

Umasoda`yu` yan un` amku` pa`gu humalum ginen tumalaya. Mauleg na tiau yan maniniñg kinine`ña ni ha pega gi halum alan guihan.

Hu fahan todu dispues hu kone` para iya siha. Mauleg konbetsasion mame gi karera. Hu tuñgu` dispue haf` sessu offisioña antes. Gigon gai tiempu ha sotse matiteg otru talaya.

Hu atotga fumaisen akonsehu para benefisiog-hu. Ayu ilegña para bai eksisia mauleg na sensian kilisyanu gi otru. Hana` malagu`yu` i sensian kinententu yan katma gi ha`aniña i amku`. Namagof i felis na kareraña. Bes enkuando mabisita ni famaguona.

Gi hiniyoñg-hu para i gima` estaba si Magu. Mampus nina bububu as Presidente Trump. Ilegña na solu manera `nai siña si Trump ha komprende linala` isla i para umana`e kutdet sin haguet ya umana` peska gi Puntan Diablo. Dimoñu!

Espirituat

I solu fitme na añkla gi ha`anita i inañgoghu gi Saina gi todu pinetsige. Todu i tiempu mauleg ta faisen ni fitme na kanaiña para u pipet hir gi halum homhum na kañadan lina`la`. Pot mantautau hit na sumen presisu este na finaisen gi Saina.

Poresu na diariu hu tutuhun ha`anihu gi tinayuyot `an oga`an. Hana`e-yu` konfiansa fumana ha`anihu sin ditension. Felis hinanau ha`ane `nai han`e-yu` un` añghet para u pulan-yu` diariamente. Kulan hit i patgon gi halum dañkulun hatdin ni sige ha espiha hinanauña. Inañgoghu gi Saina!

Magahet sumen nakontentu i inañgoghu giya guiya gi pinetsigen nesessidatta siha diariu. `An mamaisen hau ayudu siempre u fattu. Tatnai hu chage mañega finaisenhu!

Kustumbre

Este i man-ñgiñge` kustumbren Chamoru. Mauleg na finana`gue pot respetu yan hinimiddi ginen i mañaina-ta. Respetu yan hinimiddi dos mas impottante na kustumbren natibu.

Este umestablese amtau na inafamauleg, inagofli`e, yine`ase` yan ina`akude gi halum komunidat-ta. Ha sede hit man-daña` gi che`chu` linahyan. Mas libianu haf` ta petsige gi interes yan benefisiun unu yan todu.

Sound and fury signifying nothing

I had a productive Friday, Aug. 23 morning. Four sonnets on 45 before lunch. My muses were the Dave Matthews Band, T.S. Eliot, William Shakespeare and the newly proclaimed "Chosen One." It was a cathartic poetic experience. After finishing them I wrote my third eulogy, a limerick, on the same subject. As Fats Waller would say, "Here 'tis, I'm throwing it at you."

The Essential Emptiness of Donald Trump

"Remember us—if at all—not as lost violent souls, but only as the hollow men the stuffed men."

—T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Proclaimed by others, 'King of Israel' that's me, that is real
It's me, about 'indefinite detention' I have little comprehension
It's me, this week 08/23/19 'The Chosen One' disorganized rage
keeping children in a cage, tweeting per 'indefinite detention'.

I'm hollow, inside and out, shout it out, filled with brain gout
I'm hollow, a straw man filled with air, because I really care
I'm hollow, an inarticulate speaker and leader, clumsy old lout
I'm hollow, hot air, new policies of cruelty and fear year after year.

I'm the best, the best ever, half empty half full, best of all the rest
I'm the best, a stable genius, ask anyone from my departed cabinet
I'm the best, "Kim Young Un wrote me beautiful love letters" still
I'm the best, Putin said so, Sec'y of State Rex Tillerson had to go.

It's me, I'm the best, but there really is nothing at all left upstairs
I try to hide the emptiness by dying my few remaining head hairs.

I Never Said That Before. Now I Say Fore!

"It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

—Act 5 in Macbeth, a tragedy by William Shakespeare (1564 -1616)

I and I and more I, never a sight for sore eyes or golden rest room
gyrations from me absolutely no one is picking up good vibrations
I and I AyeYiYi most popular president in history no complications
I bigly endorse and send Putin and Kim Young Un supplications
What? I never said that. You think you heard what I never said
about my lack of diplomacy and foreign policy not a single word
came out of my mouth include comments domestic and on the Fed
I never said it that is my denial and I can say it with a phony smile
don't forget I've said many times I'm a stable genius and I'm smart
immigrant children can stay inside chain link border cages indefinitely
that policy began with Obama Democrats right from the very start
ask my base the lying media or Fox news they will agree completely
I and I alone need say no more my choppers waiting I'm out the door
headed to my nearest golf course watch out when I say, "FORE ".

Trump Tale Between His Legs Signifying Nothing

"How could I be such a fool like me, I let you down tail between my legs."

—from a 1990s rock song by Dave Matthews Band.

I realize now that I should have lied many times more often
after a round of golf there was always time for such words
yesterday, today, and tomorrow some deceptive words soften
the lies and fabrications making them sound less absurd.
To my very last Tweet on my very last day as US President
and then after that from my golf courses in a warmer clime
I leave a legacy of telling the most lies to the incoming resident
recording my special twit in cyber space for all recorded time.
And through the coming centuries of American political history
as students and scholars study about the greatness of POTUS 45
surely they will all struggle with the strange wonderful mystery
of why I consistently told so many bold faced lies while alive.
Despite truth corrections I remain a niggling nabob of Narcissus
ask my other self, the Chosen One, do you think they will miss us?

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

POTUS 45 A Hollow Man

Mister Trump—he lied. A ruble for the old fool

He was a hollow man he was an empty man
he liked to repeat he was a man without a plan
full of temper tantrums tweets and sound bytes
teleprompter filled with information he can't read
Alas! old racist tropes, one sided conversations
with advisors he seldom ever listened to
to no one but himself he shows devotion
"paralyzed force, gesture without motion"*
as we transition from an America made less
in the eyes of the majority of US citizens
the strength of our democratic values we bless
thank the US Constitution for providing sense
hollow, empty, no lights on upstairs? no surprise
can't wait until Congress will open its eyes.

**a line from a T.S. Eliot poem The Hollow Men*

POTUS 45, Eulogy No. 3

45th POTUS Trump was often in a rage
he put infants and children in a cage
lied about himself and all his crimes
known as a nincompoop for all times
a bizarre anomaly on the Presidential stage

WHY

From Page 10

professors have written about how their experiences interacting with Chinese students show that many are eager to learn and open to persuasion—especially when schools are mindful of the many underlying constraints these students face.

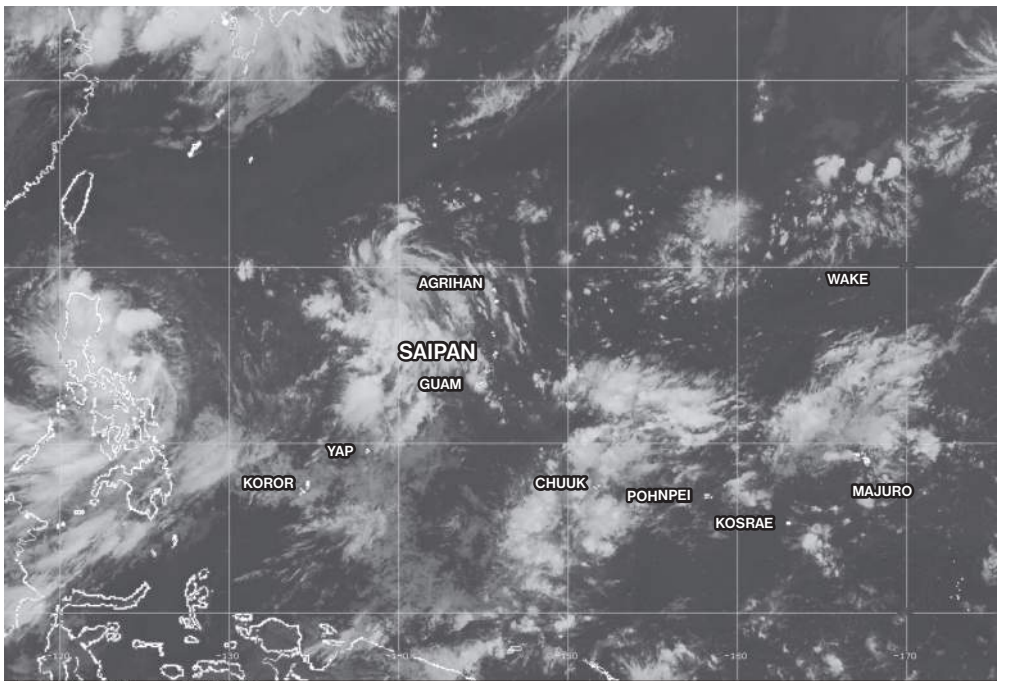
For me, learning about the Chinese government's human rights violations led to the work I do today at Human Rights Watch. In the long run, today's students living abroad may be best positioned to return home and chart a new direction for China.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East to northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:03 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows mostly cloudy skies across the Marianas, and radar shows scattered showers with coverage slowly increasing. Winds are gentle from the south to southeast, with combined seas near 3 ft at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	59° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 64°
Busan	Rain	79° / 72°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 67°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 59°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
11:55 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
7:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:23 AM	4:42 PM	-
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	5:31 AM	6:32 PM	-
Saturday	6:35 AM	7:22 PM	-
Sunday	7:37 AM	8:10 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

J&J KITCHEN

From backyard business to food truck

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jianping Mendiola used to be a chef at a Chinese restaurant in Guam. Now she is bringing that expertise to Saipan via J&J Kitchen.

Opened just last March, J&J Kitchen is literally a backyard business at the home of Jianping and her husband, Joseph, in Kagman 1, taking orders and delivering food to stores and the gas station in the village.

J&J Kitchen, which gets its name from the initials of the husband-and-wife entrepreneurial tandem, has been quite a hit in Kagman with such specialties like pork dumplings, pork taro, mung bean red sand cake, and ice cream puppies of various flavors.

Yep, you read that right. Ice cream puppies. That means ice cream in the shape of a puppy.

Jianping is particularly proud of her moon cakes, which can either be sweet or salty and are eaten in traditional Chinese festivals like the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Lunar New Year.

"What I'm doing is sweet moon cake with seven kinds of stuffing—black sesame, white sesame, walnut kernel, pick dry, melon seeds, and coconut kernel. There is also matcha green bean cake," she said.

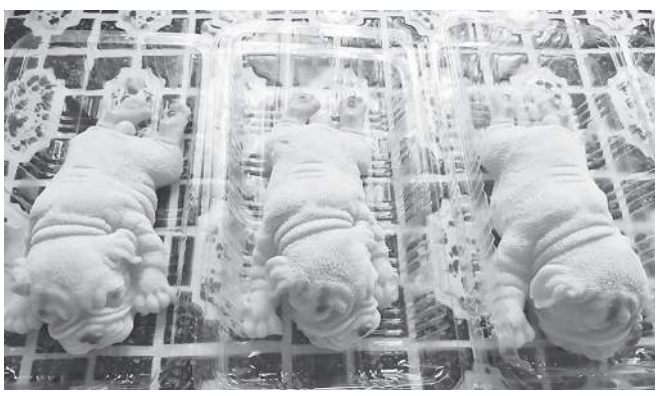
J&J Kitchen is also known for its ice cream puppies, flower ice cream, and popsicles. Her ice cream puppies are such works of art they make you think twice before eating them.

And the backyard business will soon be rolling literally, according to Joseph, as J&J Kitchen now has a food truck—more like a trailer—to serve its growing clientele.

Joseph, who used to work at the Department of Public Works, said that starting next week, at the beginning of school year, they will be selling their sweet, salty, and savory snacks at Tank Beach from 9am to 2pm.

"We want to also tap into the tourist market and that's why we're driving this food truck to Tank Beach," he said.

The entrepreneurial team of Joseph and Jianping Mendiola poses in front of J&J Kitchen's food truck.
MARK RABAGO


J&J Kitchen's ice cream puppies. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
J&J Kitchen's black mooncakes.

Before its debut at the tourist spot, J&J Kitchen food truck already had a dry run at the Capitol Hill Baseball Field with very encouraging results.

Joseph and Jianping also have plans to drive their food truck to bigger island events in the future and are currently open to bookings for fiestas, novenas, birthdays, weddings, and other special events.

J&J Kitchen also continues to deliver food in Kagman retail locations like CYC Kagman Market and the Mobil gas station in Kagman.

J&J Kitchen is open from 7am to 6pm. For directions, more information, and orders, click on their Facebook page or call 789-0540 or 287-0292.

AS SUMMIT ENDS

Macron expresses hope for US-China deal

BIARRITZ, France (AP)—With clouds growing over growth, French President Emmanuel Macron ended the Group of Seven summit of rich democracies Monday with a sparse declaration in which leaders committed themselves to "open and fair global trade and the stability of the global economy."

The four-sentence section devoted to trade in the summit's final statement landed amid uncertainty caused by the U.S.-China trade conflict that has slowed trade among nations and held up industrial production and investment. Macron, who said he wrote the one-page document himself based on positions of the other six leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump, praised the "great unity and the positive spirit of their debates" among the participating leaders.

The statement of professed unity among leaders with 40 percent of global gross domestic product at least presented a contrast to the situation around the closing statement from last year's G-7 summit in Canada, which U.S. President Donald Trump repudiated on his way to visit North Korea.

Macron said in his closing news conference that "the discussions between China and the US have triggered uncertainty and it troubled investors and markets, creating tensions. We saw it on various stock exchanges."

"The question is, what will be the outcome of these discussions. We are hoping very much that an agreement is found between the two most important economic powers. President Trump has clearly indicated his will to reach an agreement, and we have seen some positive signals during the last hours of discussions here."

Oklahoma judge rules against drugmaker, orders $572M payment

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—An Oklahoma judge on Monday found Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries helped fuel the state's opioid crisis and ordered the consumer products giant to pay $572 million, more than twice the amount another drug manufacturer agreed to pay in a settlement.

Cleveland County District Judge Thad Balkman's ruling followed the first state opioid case to make it to trial and could help shape negotiations over roughly 1,500 similar lawsuits filed by state, local and tribal governments consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio.

"The opioid crisis has ravaged the state of Oklahoma," Balkman said before announcing the judgment. "It must be abated immediately."

An attorney for the companies said they plan to appeal the ruling to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Before Oklahoma's trial began May 28, the state reached settlements with two other defendant groups—a $270 million deal with OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma and an $85 million settlement with Israeli-owned Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Oklahoma argued the companies and their subsidiaries created a public nuisance by launching an aggressive and misleading marketing campaign that overstated how effective the drugs were for treating chronic pain and understated the risk of addiction. Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter says opioid overdoses killed 4,653 people in the state from 2007 to 2017.

Hunter called Johnson & Johnson a "kingpin" company that was motivated by greed. He specifically pointed to two former Johnson & Johnson subsidiaries, Noramco and Tasmanian Alkaloids, which produced much of the raw opium used by other manufacturers to produce the drugs.

On Monday, Hunter said the Oklahoma case could provide a "road map" for other states to follow in holding drugmakers responsible for the opioid crisis.

"That's the message to other states: We did it in Oklahoma. You can do it elsewhere," Hunter said. "Johnson & Johnson will finally be held accountable for thousands of deaths and addictions caused by their activities."

Among those seated in the courtroom on Monday were Craig and Gail Box, whose son Austin was a 22-year-old standout linebacker for the Oklahoma Sooners when he died of a prescription drug overdose in 2011.

One of the attorneys for the state, Reggie Whitten, said he also lost a son to opioid abuse.

"I feel like my boy is looking down," Whitten said after the judge's ruling, his voice cracking with emotion.

Oklahoma pursued the case under the state's public nuisance statute and presented the judge with a plan to abate the crisis that would cost between $12.6 billion for 20 years and $17.5 billion over 30 years. Attorneys for Johnson & Johnson have said that estimate is wildly inflated. The judge's award would cover the costs of one year of the state's abatement plan, funding things like opioid use prevention and addiction treatment.

Attorneys for the company have maintained they were part of a lawful and heavily regulated industry subject to strict federal oversight, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, during every step of the supply chain. Lawyers for the company said the judgment was a misapplication of public nuisance law.

Sabrina Strong, an attorney for Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries, said the companies have sympathy for those who suffer from substance abuse but called the judge's decision "flawed."

"You can't sue your way out of the opioid abuse crisis," Strong said. "Litigation is not the answer."

Nation

Administration ends protection for migrant medical care

BOSTON (AP)—The Trump administration has eliminated a protection that lets immigrants remain in the country and avoid deportation while they or their relatives receive life-saving medical treatments or endure other hardships, immigration officials said in letters issued to families this month.

Critics denounced the decision as a cruel change that could force desperate migrants to accept lesser treatment in their poverty-stricken homelands.

Mariela Sanchez, a native of Honduras who recently applied for the special exemption, said a denial would amount to a death sentence for her 16-year-old son, Jonathan, who suffers from cystic fibrosis. They are among many families who settled in Boston to seek care at some of the nation's top hospitals.

Sanchez, who arrived in the U.S. with her family in 2016, said she lost a daughter to the same disease years ago after doctors in her home country failed to diagnose it.

The disease, which is hereditary, affects the lungs and digestive system and has no cure.

"He would be dead," if the family had remained in Honduras, she said of her son. "I have panic attacks over this every day."

In Boston alone, the decision could affect about 20 families with children fighting cancer, HIV, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy and other serious conditions, said Anthony Marino, head of immigration legal services at the Irish International Immigrant Center, which represents the families.

AP

Mariela Sanchez, of Honduras, comforts her son, Jonathan, 16, during a news conference, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in Boston.

Advocates say similar letters from Citizenship and Immigration Services have been issued to immigrants in California, North Carolina and elsewhere.

"Can anyone imagine the government ordering you to disconnect your child from life-saving care—to pull them from a hospital bed—knowing that it will cost them their lives?" Marino said.

"This is a new low," Democratic Sen. Ed Markey said. "Donald Trump is literally deporting kids with cancer."

A Citizenship and Immigration Services spokeswoman said the policy change was effective Aug. 7.

It affects all pending requests, including from those seeking a renewal of the two-year authorization and those applying for the first time. The only exception is for military members and their families.

The special status is similar to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that then-President Barack Obama created in 2012 to shield immigrants brought to the country as children from deportation—another policy the administration has been trying to dismantle.

The agency estimates it receives about 1,000 deferred action requests per year that are related neither to the military nor to DACA. Most of them cite medical or financial hardships, the agency said.

Going forward, applicants will be able to seek deportation deferrals from a different agency, Immigration Customs and Enforcement, according to the spokeswoman.

Letters sent to Boston-area families last week and reviewed by The Associated Press, however, do not mention that option. They simply order applicants to leave the country within 33 days or face deportation, which can hurt future visa or immigration requests.

The elimination of the special status for medical care is one of several aggressive steps the Trump administration has taken in recent weeks to crack down on immigrants.

The administration also wants to deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other public assistance, and to end a long-running agreement limiting how long migrant children can be kept in detention. President Donald Trump floated the idea of ending the right to citizenship for babies born to foreigners on American soil, and the administration wants to effectively ban asylum along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Without the discretionary deferrals, immigrant families facing serious health issues have few other options for relief, medical experts in Boston argued Monday.

The deferrals, they added, do not provide families a pathway to citizenship, though they can qualify for government-funded health benefits and receive legal permission to work while their children receive medical treatment.

Florida nursing home employees charged in patient deaths

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Four employees of a Florida nursing home where 12 people died in sweltering heat after a hurricane cut power were charged Monday, at least three of them with aggravated manslaughter, their attorneys said.

Nursing home patients at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, ranging in age from 57 to 99, began dying three days after Hurricane Irma swept through in September 2017.

The center, which housed about 150 patients at the time, did not evacuate any of the residents as the temperature began rising, even though a fully functional hospital was across the street, investigators said. The home's license was suspended days after the storm and it was later closed.

Former Rehabilitation Center nurse Sergo Colin and administrator Jorge Carballo were each charged with 12 counts of aggravated manslaughter, according to jail records. Nurse Althia Meggie was charged with two counts of aggravated manslaughter and two counts of tampering with evidence.

All three turned themselves in at the Broward County Jail on Monday and were scheduled to appear in court Tuesday, their attorneys said.

Nurse Tamika Miller was being held in the Miami-Dade County jail on unspecified charges, according to the jail's website. She was awaiting transfer to Broward County.

Hollywood Police spokeswoman Miranda Grossman said authorities would withhold comment until a news conference planned for Tuesday.

Attorney Jim Cobb said none of the employees understood why they were being charged . He said Carballo and other administrators were repeatedly told before the storm that they could call then-Gov. Rick Scott's personal cellphone directly for help. Cobb said they called five times, but never heard back from Scott.

Cobb said the administrators "sat there languishing waiting for the cavalry to come. ... They never, ever came."

Attorney Lawrence Hashish remarked that "the real crime is that the state is looking to blame selfless caregivers and the evidence will show that no crime was committed."

Scott, now a U.S. senator, said in a statement that the nursing home should have called 911.

"Nothing can hide the fact that this healthcare facility failed to do their basic duty to protect life," he said.

But attorney David Frankel insisted that the staff did everything they could to keep the patients, some of them in hospice, cool and hydrated. They brought in small air conditioners and fans, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Man kills wife, daughter, mother-in-law, himself

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a man fatally shot his wife, his mother-in-law and one of his twin daughters before turning the gun on himself at a Florida home. A Pembroke Pines police news release says the shooting occurred Sunday night. Police say officers responded to the Grand Palms community, where 911 dispatchers told them that a man, later identified as 35-year-old Pablo Colon Jr., had killed family members and was intending to take his own life. A rapid response team entered the home, and officers found Colon, 36-year-old Sandra Colon, 61-year-old Olga Alvarez and the Colons' 3-year-old daughter dead. The other daughter was taken to a local hospital with injuries not considered life-threatening and later released to family. Police didn't immediately release a motive for the shooting.

Indiana girl dies after being left in car after church

BROWNSBURG, Ind. (AP)—Police say an Indiana toddler has died after she was mistakenly left in a car when her family returned home from church. The Hendricks County sheriff's office says a criminal case from the "tragic loss" is unlikely. The sheriff's office says the 21-month-old girl died Sunday near Brownsburg, northwest of Indianapolis. Her parents and four siblings took naps after church. Family members believed someone had removed the girl from a car seat and brought her into the house. The high temperature was in the low 80s. Efforts to revive the girl after two hours were unsuccessful.

Thousands honor Illinois trooper shot while serving warrant

WATERLOO, Ill. (AP)—Thousands of people lined a 25-mile route as the body of a slain Illinois state trooper was returned to his small hometown. Trooper Nicholas Hopkins was fatally shot Friday while serving a search warrant in East St. Louis. Officers on motorcycles led the way Monday as the 33-year-old's body was transported from St. Louis to Waterloo, Illinois. People holding American flags crossed their hearts as the procession passed. KTVI-TV reports the hearse stopped at Hopkins' home. He was married with three children. Katelyn Schanuel watched the procession near Waterloo City Hall. She says it "brought tears" to her eyes. Hopkins' family says the public's support is "imprinted on our hearts forever." Chris Grant has been charged with murder in the trooper's death. Another man was charged Monday with armed violence and obstructing justice.

Asia

Indonesia to move capital from sinking Jakarta to Borneo

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president says the country's capital will move from overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta to a site in sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on Borneo island, known for rainforests and orangutans.

President Joko Widodo said Monday intense studies over the past three years had resulted in the choice of the location on the eastern side of Borneo island.

The new capital city, which has not yet been named, will be in the middle of the vast archipelago nation and already has relatively complete infrastructure because it is near the cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda, Widodo said.

He said the burden has been become too heavy on Jakarta on Java island as the center of government, finance, business, trade and services as well as the location of the country's largest airport and seaport.

Widodo said the decision was made not to move the capital elsewhere on Java because the country's wealth and people are highly concentrated there and should be spread out.

AP

Indonesia President Joko Widodo gestures as he speaks during a press conference at the palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Currently 54% of the country's nearly 270 million people live on Java, the country's most densely populated area.

"We couldn't continue to allow the burden on Jakarta and Java island to increase in terms of population density," Widodo said at a news conference in the presidential palace. "Economic disparities between Java and elsewhere would also increase."

In an interview with The Associated Press last month, Widodo said he wants to separate the center of government from the country's business and economic center in Jakarta.

Jakarta is an archetypical Asian mega-city with 10 million people, or 30 million including those in its greater metropolitan area. It is prone to earthquakes and flooding and is rapidly sinking due to uncontrolled extraction of ground water. The ground water and rivers are highly contaminated. Congestion is estimated to cost the economy $6.5 billion a year.

Mineral-rich East Kalimantan was once almost completely covered by rainforests, but illegal logging has removed many of its original growth. It is home to only 3.5 million people and is surrounded by Kutai National Park, known for orangutans and other primates and mammals.

Widodo said the relocation of the capital to a 180,000-hectare (444,780-acre) site will take up a decade and cost as much as 466 trillion rupiah ($32.5 billion), of which 19% will come from the state budget and the rest will be funded by cooperation between the government and business entities and by direct investment by state-run companies and the private sector.

He said the studies determined that the best site is between two districts, North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kertanegara, an area that has minimal risk of disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, forest fires, volcanic eruptions or landslides in the seismically active nation.

Indonesia's founding father and first president, Sukarno, once planned to relocate the capital to Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan province.

Infrastructure improvement has been Widodo's signature policy and helped him win a second term in April elections.

Decades of discussions about building a new capital on Borneo island moved forward in April when Widodo approved a general relocation plan. He appealed for support for the move in an annual national address on the eve of Indonesia's independence day on Aug. 16.

He said Monday that his government is still drafting a law on the new capital which will need to be approved by Parliament.

Indian order leaves Kashmir police dispirited, even disarmed

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Without weapons, riot gear or even clean uniforms, a group of police officers sat on the sidewalk outside a shopfront in Srinagar, the main city in the Himalayan region of Indian-administered Kashmir, weighing their allegiances.

Thirty Kashmiri police officers who spoke on the condition of anonymity fearing retribution from their superiors told The Associated Press that they have been sidelined and, in some cases, disarmed by New Delhi-based authorities since the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi downgraded Jammu and Kashmir from a state into two federally administered territories, tightening its grip on the restive region.

The state police force was shocked by the sudden presidential order earlier this month that stripped Kashmir's constitutional autonomy, leading officers to feel spiritless, caught between the federal security forces they now report to and the friends and neighbors who question their loyalties like never before.

"At the end of the day, we neither belong to our own nor are we trusted by higher authorities," said one officer.

For years, Kashmiri police have been on the forefront of intelligence-gathering and profiling of activists and armed militants fighting Indian rule.

Days before Kashmir's special status was revoked, tens of thousands of troops were deployed to the region. Authorities cut internet, cell coverage and even landline telephone service, leaving Jammu and Kashmir's 12.5 million people unable to contact each other or friends and relatives outside the state.

State police, too, were in the dark.

Officers described Kashmir's sudden re-organization as a betrayal by the federal authorities they had been serving at the risk of social alienation in their communities.

Many of the policemen said their department-issued firearms were taken away from them days before Modi's government's order was presented in Parliament because authorities feared they could rebel.

India's home minister, Amit Shah, was seen outside parliament house in New Delhi on Aug. 6 with a checklist that included a line about briefing India's defense minister about the possibility of "violent disobedience" by Kashmir's men and women in uniform.

At least three fights have broken out between state police and soldiers since Kashmir's status was changed, leading to injuries on both sides, two police officers said.

Some officers said they were unclear about their role as the region transitions from a semi-autonomous state to a federally administered territory.

In contrast to the Indian paramilitary soldiers manning a maze of checkpoints armed with assault rifles, shotguns, tear gas canisters and two-way radios, Kashmir police are only carrying batons.

"It has been a leisurely job these days," said one officer perusing a newspaper at a checkpoint.

"We've become like clerks and helpers in the field for soldiers. Why should we carry weapons? After all, we too are part of this besieged society," he said.

The work of a Kashmiri police officer been contentious at least since 1947, when India became an independent, secular state and partition created the Muslim state of Pakistan.

Since then, the Alpine valley of Kashmir has been bitterly disputed by the two countries, who fought two of their three wars over it and now each administer a portion of the land while claiming it in its entirety.

On the Indian-controlled side, many Kashmiris see local police as henchmen for the Indian government bent on suppressing a popular demand for independence or a merger with Pakistan.

In the 1950s and 1960s, police routinely detained residents for even listening to Radio Pakistan, a state-run broadcaster. Anti-India activists were arrested and tortured.

Police defend warning shot as Hong Kong divide widens

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police on Monday defended pulling out their guns and firing a warning shot during anti-government protests over the weekend, and lawmakers on each side of the city's political divide said the other side bears responsibility for the violence.

Full Coverage: Hong Kong

Assistant Police Commissioner Mak Chin-ho said one officer fired into the air and six held up their revolvers after protesters charged them repeatedly with metal poles, long sticks and road signs on Sunday night.

"Their use of force was indeed necessary and reasonable," he told a news conference at police headquarters.

Pro-government lawmakers condemned the acts of protesters who blocked streets, threw gasoline bombs and assaulted police officers.

"You can say a lot of different opinions to the government," said Starry Lee, chairwoman of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong. "But violence is different. If we can accept violence, our city will be ruined."

Pro-democracy members of the Legislative Council countered that the government and the police need to take responsibility, the former for introducing the extradition legislation that sparked the protests and the latter for what they say is selective enforcement of the law targeting government opponents.

Kwok Ka-ki, a member of the Civic Party, blamed Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam. He called her creation of a platform for dialogue a delay tactic rather than an attempt to resolve the conflict.

"She is the one who should shoulder all the responsibility, and now she is trying to get away from all the responsibility and shifting the focus to the so-called platform," he said.

At a government news conference, Matthew Cheung, the chief secretary for administration, said the protesters' actions show a total disregard for law and order and called them unacceptable. On Saturday, protesters damaged several "smart" lampposts installed by the city, cutting at least one down with a circular electric saw.

"We need to have dialogue instead of confrontation," Cheung said, according to a simultaneous translation of his remarks. "We need to have peace instead of violence."

A hard-line contingent of protesters took over streets on Saturday and Sunday following peaceful pro-democracy marches. They argue that peaceful protests are not enough to get the government to respond to their demands. Police used tear gas to clear the streets and arrested more than 80 people.

The movement has five demands including democratic elections and an independent inquiry into what it alleges is police violence in breaking up demonstrations.

The protests started in early June with the now-suspended extradition bill, which would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China to face trial, and has expanded to encompass a general concern that China is chipping away at the rights of Hong Kong residents.

World

Brazilian firefighters toil in Amazon region hazy with smoke

JACUNDA NATIONAL FOREST, Brazil (AP)—Equipped with hoses connected to rubber backpacks, Brazilian firefighters in the Amazon on Monday raced in a truck along dirt roads toward plumes of smoke after a spotter in a military helicopter directed them to a fast-spreading fire.

A landowner opened the gate of a barbed wire fence and the firefighters set to work, dousing a conflagration they believed was intentionally set to prepare land for crops or pasture. When their water supply ran out, they made a fire break, clearing brush with machetes and chainsaws to starve the blaze of its fuel.

The smoke-shrouded scene near the lush Jacunda national forest in the Amazonian state of Rondonia, witnessed by an Associated Press team, showed the enormity of the challenge ahead: putting out a multitude of blazes and safeguarding—in the long term—a vast region described by world leaders as critical to the health of the planet.

The country's National Space Research Institute, which monitors deforestation, has recorded that the number of fires has risen by 85% to more than 77,000 in the last year, a record since the institute began keeping track in 2013. About half of the fires have been in the Amazon region, with many in just the past month.

At a summit in France, the Group of Seven nations pledged $20 million on Monday to help fight the flames in the Amazon and protect the rainforest, in addition to a separate $12 million from Britain and $11 million from Canada.

The international pledges came despite tensions between European countries and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who has accused rich countries of treating the region like a "colony" and suggested the West is angling to exploit Brazil's natural resources.

But the funds, which are widely seen as critical support, are still a relatively meager amount for dealing with an environmental crisis that threatens what French President Emmanuel Macron has called "the lungs of the planet."

The AP team drove for hours at a stretch outside the Rondonia capital of Porto Velho without seeing any major fires, suggesting that many had been extinguished or burned themselves out since rapidly spreading in recent weeks. Many fires were set in already deforested areas to clear land for farming and livestock.

Still, smoke billowed from charred fields and scrub, shrouding the sky. The airport in Porto Velho closed for more than one hour on Monday morning because of poor visibility caused by the haze.

Under international pressure to act, Bolsonaro said he might visit the Amazon region this week to check on firefighting efforts and would make 44,000 troops available to fight the blazes. However, the military presence in the area seemed scarce on Monday, with only a few soldiers seen patrolling roads and lending a hand.

At dawn, the blazing sun was hidden under thick smoke that blanketed the horizon like fog. Trucks carrying fresh timber sped through a road that cut through lands where heaps of ash were piled around charred logs.

Some local residents seemed torn between knowing that the fires were devastating the environment around them, and needing to extract the Amazon's rich natural resources to make a living.

"We have to preserve the land. The government has to help small farmers more, prioritize and take care of the large reserves, where people do most of the illegal things," said Willian Sabara Dos Santos, a farm manager. Behind him, a Brazilian flag on a pole fluttered in the wind next to a statue of a bull that he said was a replica of the iconic "Charging Bull" sculpture on New York's Wall Street.

AP

Firefighters rest briefly as they put out fires along the road to Jacunda National Forest, near the city of Porto Velho in the Vila Nova Samuel region which is part of Brazil's Amazon, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Thousands in Mozambique rebuild after devastating cyclones

VINHO, Mozambique (AP)—When Cyclone Idai roared through central Mozambique in March, it made some 200,000 people homeless and destroyed about 2 million acres of crops.

"The winds blew, the rains poured and the river flooded," said farmer Fernando Amis. "It happened very quickly. Before we knew it the water was up to our necks."

Amis, 63, said he had never seen such destruction. "Our homes were ruined, our clothes and possessions were swept away," he said. "We were wet and had no food. It was terrible."

Weeks later a second cyclone hit northern Mozambique, the first time since record-keeping began that two major cyclones hit the southern African country in a single year. Together the two storms affected 3 million people, according to the U.N.

Five months after the cataclysmic storms, Amis is one of the scores of thousands of Mozambicans busy rebuilding their homes, fields and lives. He and his three wives are constructing seven buildings of wooden poles that they plaster with mud and cover with thatched roofs. After losing their entire maize crop, they are growing a crop of sugar beans that will provide food for their 12 children and will also be sold for cash.

The Amis family benefited from living near Gorongosa National Park which distributed immediate food aid, blankets and seeds to help those living in the buffer zones around the park.

"We are so grateful. We got seeds from the park and advice about how to plant our bean crop so it will be productive," said Amis. "The park will also help us find a market for the beans."

When Cyclone Idai first hit, the park responded by buying food and supplies at the local market and delivering it to flooded families. The park is supported by the Gorongosa Restoration Project, a nonprofit group supported by American philanthropist Greg Carr, that cooperates with Mozambique's government. The group spends more than half of its annual budget on supporting the local community.

"We were the first responders and we dropped food to people by helicopters," said Edson Carneiro, 29, the park's agriculture manager. "We did that for a month and distributed 97 tons of food that we purchased ourselves."

The park then worked with the U.N.'s World Food Program and distributed more than 500 tons of World Food Program aid between April and July, he said. It also received a USAID grant to provide seeds to 10,000 households with an estimated 50,000 people, said Carneiro.

Gorongosa Park is now working with WFP on a recovery project in which residents help rebuild health clinics, schools and roads and in return they receive food.

Iran says oil on tanker pursued by US sold; buyer unnamed

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Monday announced that the 2.1 million barrels of crude aboard an Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. has been sold to an unnamed buyer as the ship, at the center of a crisis roiling the region, continued its voyage in the Mediterranean Sea.

The announcement by government spokesman Ali Rabiei represent just the latest twist in the saga of the Adrian Darya 1, which had been known as the Grace 1 when authorities seized the vessel off Gibraltar on July 4, on suspicion of breaking European Union sanctions targeting Syria.

The seizure of the ship, and Iran's subsequent seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker, came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran over the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Speaking to journalists Monday in Tehran, Rabiei declined to name the oil's buyer, nor terms for the sale. At market rates, the crude oil aboard the Adrian Darya would be worth about $130 million. However, anyone buying it likely would be targeted by U.S. financial sanctions.

"The buyer of the oil decides where its destination is," Rabiei said, adding that the world is "witnessing the wrong policy by the U.S. in monitoring and intervention in others' internal affairs."

The Adrian Darya's detention and later release by Gibraltar have added fuel to the growing tensions between Washington and Tehran, after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago over concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program and regional influence.

In the time since, Iran has lost billions of dollars in business deals allowed by the deal, as the U.S. re-imposed and escalated sanctions largely blocking Tehran from selling crude abroad, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

In U.S. federal court documents, authorities allege the Adrian Darya's true owner is Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The U.S. declared the Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization in April, the first time America named a military force of a nation as such, giving it the legal power to issue a warrant for the vessel's seizure. However, that would require another nation to acknowledge the writ.

The Adrian Darya initially put its intended destination as Kalamata, Greece, and later as Mersin, Turkey. The State Department has pressured nations not to aid the vessel.

Focus

For 15 years, Yalqun Rozi skillfully navigated state bureaucracies to publish textbooks that taught classic poems and folk tales to millions of his fellow minority Uighurs in China's far western region of Xinjiang.

Kamalturk Yalqun displays material written by his father, Rozi, Thursday, April 18, 2019, in Philadelphia. Rozi was well-accustomed to dealing with the Chinese government's fears of an independent Uighur identity, and though he sometimes quarreled with the censors, his works always made it to publication in the end. AP

China ban on some textbooks seen aimed at Uighur culture

That all changed three years ago when the ruling Communist Party launched what it says is a campaign against ethnic separatism and religious extremism in Xinjiang. Suddenly even respected public figures like Rozi were being arrested, caught up in a crackdown that critics have said amounts to cultural genocide.

An estimated 1 million Uighurs have since been detained in internment camps and prisons across the region, and advocacy groups say that includes more than 400 prominent academics, writers, performers and artists. Critics say the government is targeting intellectuals as a way to dilute, or even erase, the Uighur culture, language and identity.

After being taken away by police in 2016, Rozi, 54, was sentenced to more than a decade in prison on charges of incitement to subvert state power.

As one of the first prominent people to be detained, Rozi's story illustrates how even Uighurs who toed the party line and were accepted by the government have been rebranded enemies of the state amid the widening campaign of surveillance and detention underway in Xinjiang.

"He had many friends among government officials. He was able to use his connections to sell his books," said Abduweli Ayup, a linguist who knew Rozi through a Uighur bookstore Ayup once ran. "Those books sold very well."

China's 11 million Uighurs are culturally, linguistically and religiously distinct from the country's overwhelmingly ethnic Han majority, who have increasingly migrated to the resource-rich region and occupy most of the well-paid jobs and powerful government positions. Uighurs speak a Turkic language and many are practicing Muslims.

For decades, Uighur intellectuals maneuvered carefully, working to advance their culture while avoiding being tarred as separatists or extremists. They thrived even as the government periodically relaxed and tightened its grip on the region.

Rozi's friends, family, and former classmates describe him as sharp, disciplined and very careful, standing out for his political and business savvy. As a college student in the 1980s, he stayed away from the pro-democracy movements that were roiling China and avoided socializing with known activists.

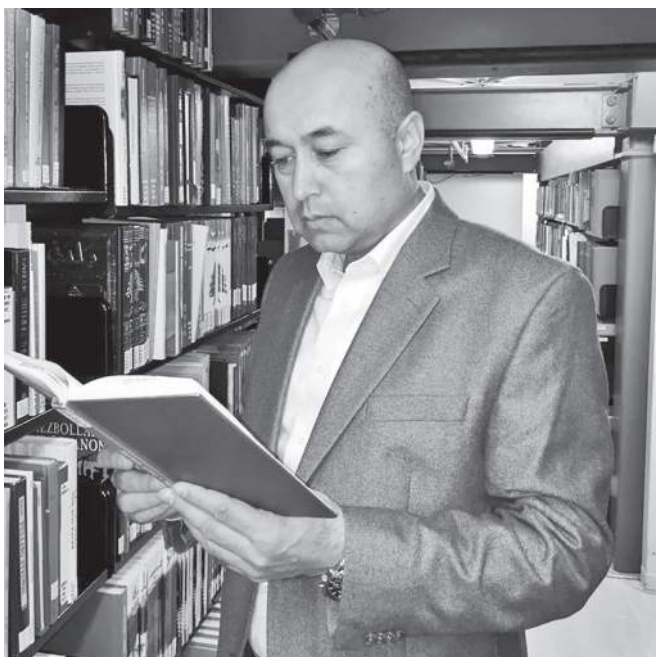
He shot to fame among Uighurs after tangling with famous writers, winning people over during heated debates on television. He cultivated ties with state officials that allowed him to write on sensitive topics like Islam and Uighur identity.

Rozi urged his people to become educated to counter stereotypes of Uighurs as backward, exotic or extremist.

"It seemed like on TV and in state propaganda, all we did was sing and dance," Rozi's son Kamaltürk Yalqun said from Philadelphia, where he and other family members live in exile. "My father didn't like this label. He wanted us to become entrepreneurs, scientists, intellectuals."

When the government tapped Rozi in 2001 to head a committee in charge of compiling Uighur literature textbooks, he leapt at the chance.

He and his family moved into a housing compound with Xinjiang Education Press editors and schooling officials, debating world events over dinner with others in the tight-knit community of Uighur scholars and writers. Rozi kept a large study overflowing with books, shutting himself in on weekends to focus on writing and editing.



This 2015 photo provided by his family shows Yalqun Rozi at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif. Rozi is one of over four hundred prominent Uighur academics, writers, performers and artists who have been detained, according to advocacy groups, joining an estimated one million people or more held in internment camps and prisons in China's far western region of Xinjiang. AP

Rozi was accustomed to dealing with the government's fears of an independent Uighur identity, and though he sometimes quarreled with censors, his works always made it to publication.

The family's fortunes and those of the Uighurs as a whole took a dramatic turn after a string of terror attacks in Xinjiang in 2014, shortly after Chinese President Xi Jinping came to power. In response, Beijing kicked off its suffocating security crackdown.

Rozi was arrested soon after Chen Quanguo, a hardline politician, became Xinjiang's top official in 2016 and his books were pulled from shelves.

Soon his former colleagues at Xinjiang Education Press began disappearing, as did the officials who used to supervise his work. Colleges held political meetings to denounce "problematic textbooks," including Rozi's, calling them "treasonous" and a "great scourge" that poisoned Uighurs with ideas of splitting China.

"Those textbooks weren't political at all," Kamaltürk said from Philadelphia, where he and other family members live in exile. "There were things in there about taking pride in being ethnic Uighurs, and that's what the Chinese government was upset with."

The intensity of Beijing's crackdown caught many by surprise, shocking even hardened dissidents.

"In retrospect, it was a signal," said Abdurehim Dolet, Rozi's close friend and former business partner who now lives in Turkey. "We all thought this was only temporary, that things would get better. He was made an example."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry referred questions about Rozi's case to regional authorities, who did not respond to a fax for comment.

Experts say the campaign against Rozi's books is part of a systematic effort by Beijing to distance young Uighurs from their language and culture, including by putting thousands of Uighurs in Mandarin-only orphanages and boarding schools.

"It's a slow process of cultural reengineering to reshape Uighur culture from top to bottom—to eradicate most fundamentally the Uighur language, or to erode it to the extent that among younger generations, it might potentially die out," said James Leibold, a scholar of Chinese ethnic studies at LaTrobe University in Melbourne.

Today, Kamaltürk, his sister and mother are trying to draw attention to Rozi's case from a cramped two-bedroom apartment in Philadelphia.

Kamaltürk, who once had the highest college entrance exam scores in Xinjiang and won a spot to study chemistry at China's most prestigious university, has put dreams of medical school on hold to support his family. He now squeezes in time to lobby members of Congress between 14-hour days at a pharmaceutical company testing animal blood samples.

He's creating a website dedicated to his father, and plans one day to finish translating what's left of his father's works into English to show the world why many Uighurs consider him among their most significant intellectuals alive.

One of Kamaltürk's biggest regrets is that he didn't take all of his father's textbooks with him when he left China. He worries some may be lost forever.

"Nobody thought they could be a target, that they could vanish one day," he said. "It's shocking that they're gone." ***(AP)***

Good Housekeeping

Suncredible Yellow ever-blooming bush sunflower

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

Everblooming and bush habit, are not two adjectives or descriptors you would ever expect to give a sunflower, but that has all changed. It's called Suncredible Yellow and botanically speaking it is a Helianthus hybrid.

I planted it about three months ago right close to a clump of Rockin salvias. Amazingly it has been blooming all summer and continues to do so giving no indication its life as an annual, will be coming to an end.

This will be a new plant product for the gardener reaching 42-inches tall and around 36-inches wide. The flowers are four inches wide and produced in abundance, bringing in bees and butterflies. Those of you with roaming deer populations will rejoice that this plant is typically not on the menu.

It will be reaching garden centers in mass next spring and I know your first thought will be sunflowers don't last that long in the garden; but this will simply not be true with this new breeding of our loved native Helianthus. It will thrive in just about any soil and will be riveting as long as you give it good sunlight. Space your plants 18 to 24-inches apart.

Suncredible Yellow will keep blooming whether you deadhead or not. In my garden, I have snipped them off a couple of times. Because of their bushy habit, they will excel as the thriller plant in mixed containers; or look stunning as a monoculture plant growing with no partners.

The look screams cottage garden but will be simply amazing just mixed in with perennials and other annuals. Of course, those of you working on a backyard wildlife habitat will be pleased beyond your wildest expectations.

The Garden Guy used a layered design up a gentle slope. In the front, I have the Rockin Deep Purple salvia and the Rockin Blue Suede Shoes. Then going up the slope is the Suncredible Yellow. Next is the amazing Summerific Holy Grail hibiscus. The look is a subtle triadic harmony with blue salvias, yellow sunflowers, and deep red hibiscus.

It has been scoring very well in plant trials. Most trials rate on a score of 1 to 5 with five being the best. In the University of Georgia trials from June through August it has an average of 4.75. It has seen similar scores in the south. When you score well above 4 the consumer can rest assured they are getting a good bang for their buck.

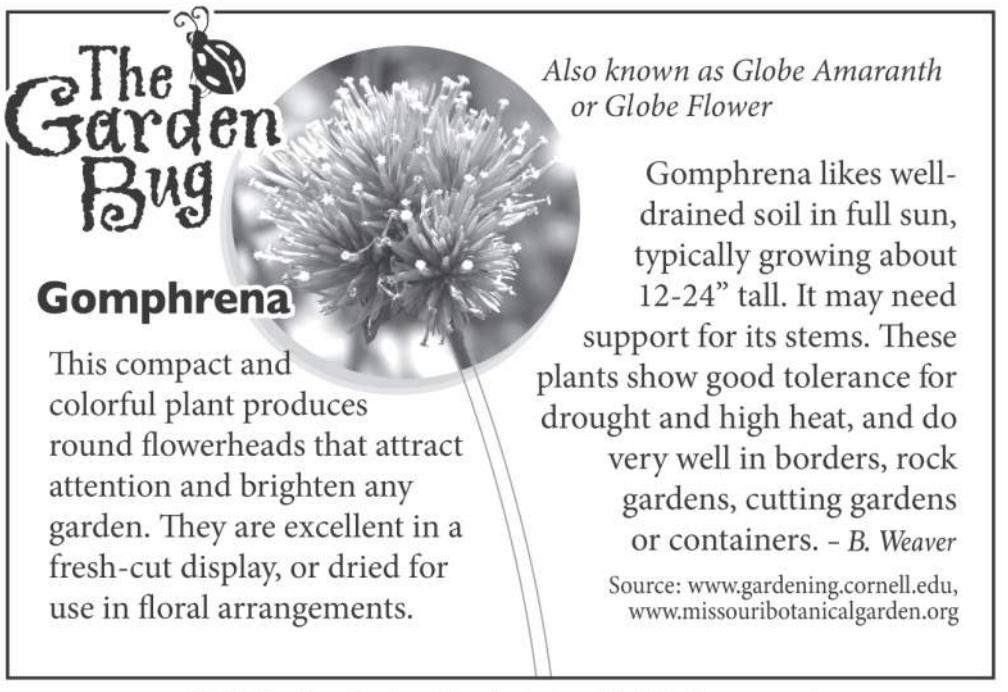
As you can tell from the length of bloom this native is heat tolerant and I can testify it has a strong degree of drought tolerance as our summer in west Georgia has crept into the miserable category. We celebrate however with colorful flowers.

One last thing very worth touting is this plants ability to give you cut-flowers for the vase. What is better than sunflowers, salvias, and zinnias in the summer vase? It is a great time to be a gardener and the new Suncredible Yellow Sunflower will give you the green thumb and a bounty of flowers too!

TNS
Suncredible Yellow sunflower produces 4-inch flowers all summer.

TNS
Suncredible Yellow sunflower brings in an assortment of pollinators like this Horace's Duskywing butterfly.

TNS
Suncredible Yellow sunflower is a new ever-blooming bush habit sunflower.


The Garden Bug
Gomphrena
This compact and colorful plant produces round flowerheads that attract attention and brighten any garden. They are excellent in a fresh-cut display, or dried for use in floral arrangements.
Also known as Globe Amaranth or Globe Flower
Gomphrena likes well-drained soil in full sun, typically growing about 12-24" tall. It may need support for its stems. These plants show good tolerance for drought and high heat, and do very well in borders, rock gardens, cutting gardens or containers. – B. Weaver
Source: www.gardening.cornell.edu, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

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Life & Style

Taylor Swift, right, accepts the video for good award for "You Need to Calm Down" at the MTV Video Music Awards. AP PHOTOS

Missy Elliott poses in the press room with the Video Vanguard award.

From left, Kevin Jonas, Joe Jonas, and Nick Jonas, of the Jonas Brothers accept the best pop award for "Sucker."

H.E.R. performs at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Shawn Mendes, left, and Camila Cabello accept the award for best collaboration for "Senorita" at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Missy Elliott honored at VMAs; Swift wins top prize

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The incomparable career of Missy Elliott, the rapper-singer-songwriter-producer-dancer whose music videos have moved the needle over the last two decades, was honored at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, where Taylor Swift also took center stage with her gay pride anthem, "You Need to Calm Down."

Elliott earned the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award and brought her colorful, eccentric and groundbreaking music videos to life, from "Work It" to "Lose Control," on Monday at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

She even sported the inflated trash bag she wore with confidence and charisma in the video for "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" in 1997 during the performance.

"I've worked diligently for over two decades and I never thought I would be standing up here receiving this award," Elliott said.

The 48-year-old game-changer also dedicated her award to the dance community and said her music video inspirations included Janet Jackson, Madonna, Peter Gabriel and Busta Rhymes.

She also honored the late R&B icon Aaliyah, whom she was close to and collaborated with, during her acceptance speech. The 18th anniversary of Aaliyah's death was Sunday.

"Aaliyah, I love you. We miss you," Elliott said.

Other impressive performers Monday included former Fifth Harmony member Normani, who won for best R&B video and brought her recently praised "Motivation" video to life thanks to her skilled dance moves; Spanish singer Rosalia, who also danced with precision and won best Latin and best choreography awards; and rapper-singer Lizzo, who transformed into a gospel singer as she wowed the audience with the upbeat anthem "Good As Hell," her 2016 song that reached new heights this year. She also sang "Truth Hurts," which was released in 2017 but became a worldwide hit this year.

The VMAs, which took place in New Jersey for the first time, closed with a superb performance by artists who are from the Garden State—including Queen Latifah, Redman, Wyclef Jean, Naughty by Nature and Fetty Wap. Rapper-actor Ice-T, who has loudly represented the West Coast, introduced the performance and reminded the audience that he was born in Newark.

Swift kicked off the VMAs, going from eye-popping pop star to guitar-strumming singer-songwriter. She gave a colorful performance of "You Need to Calm Down"—which won video of the year—and later grabbed her guitar to sing the ballad "Lover," the title track from her album released Friday.

"I just want to say that this is a fan-voted award, so I first want to say thank you to the fans because in this video several points were made, so you voting for this video means that you want a world where we'll all treated equally."

Swift and a number of cast members from the video appeared onstage to accept the honor. The video for "You Need to Calm Down," a song in which Swift calls out homophobes and her own haters, featured a number of famous faces, including Ellen DeGeneres, Laverne Cox, RuPaul and the cast of "Queer Eye." Before the video's release, Swift announced that she supported the Equality Act.

WINNERS' LIST

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Winners of the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, presented Monday at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey:

- Video of the year: Taylor Swift, "You Need to Calm Down"
- Artist of the year: Ariana Grande
- Song of the year: Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, "Old Town Road (Remix)"
- Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award: Missy Elliott
- Best new artist: Billie Eilish
- Best collaboration: Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello, "Senorita"
- Best group: BTS
- Push artist of the year: Billie Eilish
- Best pop: Jonas Brothers, "Sucker"
- Best hip-hop: Cardi B, "Money"
- Best R&B: Normani featuring 6lack, "Waves"
- Best Latin: Rosalia and J Balvin featuring El Guincho, "Con Altura"
- Best dance: The Chainsmokers and Bebe Rexha, "Call You Mine"
- Best rock: Panic! at the Disco, "High Hopes"
- Best K-pop: BTS featuring Halsey, "Boy With Luv"
- Video for good: Taylor Swift, "You Need to Calm Down"
- Song of summer: Ariana Grande and Social House, "boyfriend"
- Best power anthem: Megan Thee Stallion featuring Nicki Minaj and Ty Dolla $ign, "Hot Girl Summer"
- Best direction: Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, "Old Town Road (Remix)"
- Best editing: Billie Eilish, "bad guy"
- Best visual effects: Taylor Swift featuring Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco, "ME!"
- Best art direction: Ariana Grande, "7 Rings"
- Best choreography: Rosalia and J Balvin featuring El Guincho, "Con Altura"
- Best cinematography: Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello, "Senorita"
- Fashion Trailblazer Award: Marc Jacobs ***(AP)***

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

†KEN ROBERT IGISAIAR CONCEPCION

Affectionately known as "KACY LANCHERU"

Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel, 6:00 a.m. beginning on August 29, 2019 to September 6, 2019. On Sunday, September 1, 2019, mass will be at 9:00 a.m. On the final day, September 6, 2019, dinner of appreciation will be served at family residence in Dandan.

Si Yu'Us Ma'ase-Olomwaay

GINEN I FAMILIA

Weinstein pleads not guilty to new indictment, trial delayed

NEW YORK (AP)—Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty to a new indictment Monday that includes revised charges of predatory sexual assault, a development that caused the judge to delay the start of his trial until early next year.

The change to the case was intended to open the door for an actress to testify against Weinstein in a rape and sexual assault trial that had been scheduled to start on Sept. 9.

Weinstein mostly kept quiet during a brief appearance in a Manhattan courtroom aside from some exchanges with Judge James Burke, who at one point scolded him for pulling out his cell phone during the proceeding.

After the judge agreed with defense lawyers that the trial needed to be put off so they could have time to respond to the revised charges, he told them the new trial date of Jan. 6 was firm. To make the point, he stared at the defendant and asked, "Mr. Weinstein, do you want to go to trial?"

"Not really," Weinstein quipped.

Weinstein, 67, who's free on $1 million bail, has denied all accusations of nonconsensual sex.

After the hearing, his attorneys said they would ask the judge to dismiss the indictment, which they called a "desperate" attempt to salvage the case.

"I think the case itself is weak," said his lawyer Donna Rotunno.

Weinstein

Weinstein previously pleaded not guilty to charges accusing him of raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

The case remains about those two women, but prosecutors said the new indictment was needed to allow a third woman, Annabella Sciorra, to testify. Sciorra, who is best known for her work on "The Sopranos," says Weinstein raped her inside her Manhattan apartment after she starred in a film for his movie studio in 1993.

Prosecutors can't charge Weinstein with the alleged attack on Sciorra because it took place too long ago to be prosecuted under state law, but they want to use her testimony to prove that Weinstein had a pattern of assaulting women. That's necessary to prove the charge of predatory sexual assault.

Sciorra's lawyer, Gloria Allred, said her client was willing to tell her story to bring Weinstein to justice. She criticized the defense team for saying they would try to get the testimony barred.

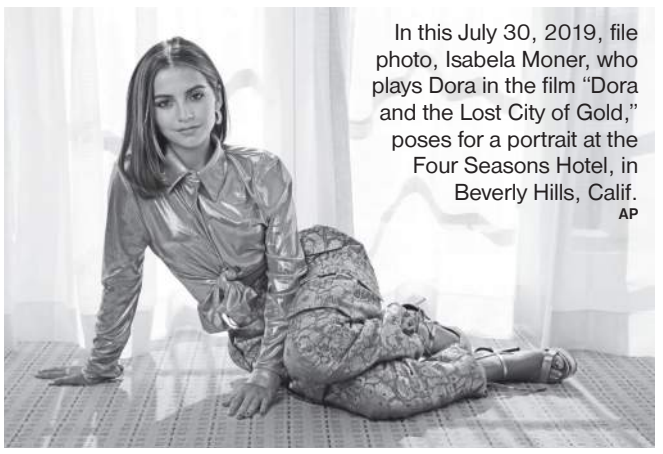
"Why are they so afraid of having additional witnesses testify?" she said.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault, but Sciorra went public with her story in a story in The New Yorker in October 2017.

Court papers unsealed on Monday indicate that, in addition to Sciorra, prosecutors plan to call three other women as witnesses to try to demonstrate a pattern of "prior bad acts" by Weinstein.

The papers don't identify the women but cite a time and location—Feb. 19, 2013, at a Beverly Hills hotel—that appear to correspond to news accounts about an unnamed Italian actress and model who alleged in a 2017 interview that Weinstein raped her in her hotel room.

Separately, defense attorneys have asked an appeals court to move the trial out of New York City because a "circus-like atmosphere" there fueled by news reports and social media posts. It's unclear when the court will take up the request.



In this July 30, 2019, file photo, Isabela Moner, who plays Dora in the film "Dora and the Lost City of Gold," poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Study finds films lag significantly in Latino representation

NEW YORK (AP)—Latinos make up 18% of the U.S. population and 24% of its frequent moviegoers, yet they rarely see themselves on movie screens.

A new study by the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative finds that Latino representation in film lags significantly behind the U.S. population and that, over the last decade, the number of Latino characters in the most popular movies is virtually unchanged.

The report, released Monday and conducted in partnership with the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) and Wise Entertainment, analyzed the 1,200 top-grossing films from 2007 to 2018 and some 47,268 speaking or named characters. It found that in that 12-year period, 4.5% of all speaking or named characters were Latino, and just 3% of leads or co-leads.

Over that time, the rate of representation has hovered between 3-6%, researchers found. In, 2018, there were Latino speaking characters in 5% of the most popular films—the same rate as in 2008.

Inclusion Initiative founder and director Stacy L. Smith, who co-authored the study, said that in all areas of film, Latino are "vastly underrepresented."

"At a time where Latinos in our country are facing intense concerns over their safety, we urgently need to see the Latino community authentically and accurately represented throughout entertainment," Smith said in a statement.

Researchers found that in the films studied, 4% had a Latino director, and most of those filmmakers—71%—were from outside the U.S. Out of the 1,335 directors, only one was a Latina. Among producers, just 3% were Latino.

The study also found that Latinos, when they are on screen, frequently appear in stereotyped roles. In the most popular films at the U.S. box office, Latinos are depicted as criminals 24% of the time; 17% were portrayed as poor or with a low income.

"The Latino community has not been prioritized, and it is imperative that we shed light on the glaring reality of Latino representation in film," said Benjamin Lopez, executive director of NALIP.

The results of the study, while hardly surprising, are particularly striking considering what avid moviegoers Latinos generally are. The MPAA has said that 24% of frequent moviegoers—those who go to the movies at least once a month—are Latino. No other ethnic demographic is more overrepresented among moviegoers.

The disparity is even more glaring considering that the movie business is centered in Los Angeles, where Latinos make up 49% of the population.

New Disney park attractions will have Mary Poppins, Wakanda

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Mary Poppins. Wakanda. Rapunzel. A hodge-podge of beloved characters and settings would hardly fit in the same sentence if not for the fact they're all coming to Disney parks or cruise ships within the next few years.

Disney Parks chairman Bob Chapek announced the new attractions over the weekend at the company's D23 Expo in Anaheim, California.

The first Mary Poppins attraction at a Disney park is headed to Epcot as part of the transformation of the Florida park. Appropriately, the Cherry Tree Lane neighborhood will be housed in the United Kingdom pavilion in World Showcase.

Other changes are afoot in Epcot's World Showcase, the area around a lagoon that shows off pavilions from almost a dozen nations.

Next year, the French pavilion is adding a new attraction based on the animated film "Ratatouille," as well as a new French restaurant. The French pavilion also will host a sing-along with songs from the film, "Beauty and the Beast" starting next January.

Both the Canada and China pavilions are getting new movies showcasing their countries, and Disney officials said a new nighttime extravaganza will offer various interpretations of classic Disney songs from people all over the world.

In other parts of Epcot, a "Guardians of the Galaxy" ride is planned, as well as a new restaurant at the Mission: Space pavilion.

Elsewhere in Disney's "park-dom," ''Avenger Campus" areas are planned for Disney California Adventure and Disneyland Paris, based on "The Avengers" movie franchise. Both campuses will have Spider-Man attractions. The California park will have an Avengers Headquarters which will become the entrance to a ride that features the Avengers on a mission in Wakanda, the fictional land from the film "Black Panther."

Disney is bringing online three new cruise ships, including Disney Wish, upon which the image of Rapunzel will grace the stern when it starts sailing in 2021.

Disney also is building a "Zootopia"-themed land at Shanghai Disney Resort.

In this file photo dated Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, a mural by street artist Banksy, depicting a star being chiselled from the European flag, stands in Dover, south east England. AP

Banksy's Brexit mural disappears from wall in seaside port

LONDON (AP)—A Brexit mural by celebrated street artist Banksy appears to have been painted over.

The side of a building that had borne a famous painting of a worker chipping away one of the golden stars from the European Union's flag—symbolizing Britain's impending exit from the bloc—was covered in white paint Monday. Scaffolding had been erected over the weekend at the building in the southern British port city of Dover.

It was unclear what exactly had happened to the mural. The Godden Gaming Organization, which owns the building, previously said it was exploring options to remove, maintain or sell the artwork.

Emails to a Banksy representative and to Dover's local council seeking clarification about the fate of the artwork went unanswered Monday, a national holiday in Britain.

Local lawmaker Charlie Elphicke said in a tweet that he is, "Very disappointed by the disappearance of the Dover Banksy. A culturally iconic statement on our times."

Judge approves plea deal for 'The Bachelor' star

INDEPENDENCE, Iowa (AP)—A judge has approved a plea deal that imposes two years' probation and a suspended prison term for an Iowa farmer who appeared on "The Bachelor."

Buchanan County District Court records say the judge accepted the plea agreement Monday between Chris Soules and prosecutors "because it is in accordance with the pre-sentence investigation report recommendations."

Soules pleaded guilty in November to a reduced charge of leaving the scene of a serious injury accident for the April 2017 crash that killed 66-year-old Kenny Mosher. Soules was arrested after he rear-ended Mosher's tractor. Soules called 911, performed CPR on Mosher and waited for first responders, but he left the scene before officers arrived.

AP

In this Nov. 27, 2017, file photo, Iowa farmer and former TV reality show celebrity Chris Soules listens during a hearing in Buchanan County District Court in Independence, Iowa.

Soules appeared on "The Bachelor" and "Dancing With The Stars" in 2015.

Eddie Murphy to host 'SNL' for the first time in 35 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Murphy will be returning to a place that helped launch his career—"Saturday Night Live."

The comedian will be the host of the sketch comedy show on Dec. 21, marking the former cast member's first hosting appearance since 1984.

Murphy was a cast member from 1980 to 1984, starring in such landmark sketches as "Mr. Robinson's Neighborhood" and as Gumby, Buckwheat and Stevie Wonder.

He went on to star in numerous films, including "The Nutty Professor," Bowfinger," "Beverly Hills Cop" and "Coming to America."

"Saturday Night Live," celebrating its 45th season, returns Sept. 28 with host Woody Harrelson and Billie Eilish as the musical guest.

Others planned to grace the show this season include Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Taylor Swift, David Harbour, Camila Cabello and Kristen Stewart.

Kimono no more: Kim Kardashian West renames shapewear line

AP

This Dec. 3, 2018 file photo shows Kim Kardashian West at "The Cher Show" Broadway musical opening night in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian West's shapewear line Kimono is no more. The new name, changed amid outcry over cultural appropriation, is SKIMS Solutionwear.

The reality star, makeup mogul and law student said on Instagram that she changed the name after much "thought and consideration." Kardashian West told WSJ Magazine back in July her intentions to play off her name with Kimono were "innocent" and she had not anticipated the backlash.

The name Kimono, the same word for an ancient Japanese style of dressing, surfaced in June after Kardashian West attempted to trademark it.

Her shapewear line is color and size-inclusive, ranging from XXS to 5XL. Some pieces include side slits in spots Kardashian West said she used to make herself with scissors.

Viola Davis set to play Michelle Obama in proposed series

AP

This combination photo shows actress Viola Davis at the Glamour Women of the Year Awards in New York on Nov. 12, 2018, left, and former first lady Michelle Obama on NBC's "Today" show in New York on Oct. 11, 2018.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Viola Davis is set to portray Michelle Obama in a Showtime series under development about America's first ladies.

Davis also is an executive producer on the project, which Showtime said Monday will "peel back the curtain" on the lives of presidential spouses.

The first season will focus on Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford and Obama.

Showtime said it's committed to three scripts for the proposed series. There is no air date since the series has yet to be ordered.

Former President Barack Obama and his wife launched their own production company in 2018, and have announced deals with Netflix and Spotify.

Religious man is intrigued by invitation to a threesome

DEAR ABBY: I am a single male in my early 50s who looks younger. A married couple approached me and expressed their desire for me to become intimate with them as a couple. They are only acquaintances.

I was surprised but interested when they told me they have an open marriage and would like me to participate with the wife. They are into threesomes, swinging and swapping. I have never participated in such activities, although I admit that I am now very curious.

They know I am a religious person and told me that they don't consider it to be adultery or coveting since they are willing participants and there are no secrets or desire to break up their marriage. I told them I'd think about it and get back to them.

When I discussed it with my married brother, he was all for it. But when I talked about it with my divorced sister, at first she thought I was trying to recruit her as a participant, which I was not. Once I cleared that up, she voiced no opinion.

I am a clean-cut boy-next-door type of person. I don't flirt with women, and I'm discreet about my personal life. This could be why this couple approached me. I would appreciate your thoughts.

CURIOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CURIOUS: I'm glad to oblige. Because you are a religious person, look up the definition of adultery. My dictionary defines it as having sex with someone other than your spouse. Covet means to lust after. This swinging couple appears to have their own definition of those terms, which do not mesh with reality.

That said, being in your sixth decade, you are a big boy, and the decision whether to participate is strictly up to you. I know the offer is flattering, but it might be interesting to know what your religious adviser would have to say about this. Before proceeding, perhaps consider seeking advice from that person.

DEAR ABBY: Six years ago, I retired to care for my wife of 34 years. She was on multiple meds and wheelchair-bound, suffering from high blood pressure, alcohol and nicotine addiction, chronic depression, morbid obesity, advancing kidney failure, severe arthritis and worsening dementia.

Throughout the remainder of her difficult life, I was her only caregiver. Her son and daughter were "too busy" to help, although they live only a few minutes away. (Her "too busy" daughter didn't even have a job.) During the final year of my wife's struggle, not once did they visit her.

After she died, they spread the word on social media that she died because I didn't take care of her. I don't know if it was to deflect criticism from themselves or to assuage a guilty conscience (if they even have one). What kills me is they told that same lie to my grandchildren, and I can't call and tell them the truth. My son-in-law threatened the kids that if they spoke to me, he would take away their phones.

It has been a year and a half, and this mess still breaks my heart. Any suggestions?

UNHAPPY GRANDPA

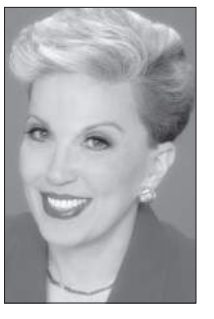
DEAR GRANDPA: Unless there is a chapter missing from your letter, what your children have done is not only inexplicable but also despicable. To alienate you from your grandchildren is heartless.

However, what's done is done. You know you did everything you possibly could for your late wife. Now go, live your life to the fullest and stop looking back because you richly deserve every GOOD thing life brings your way.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

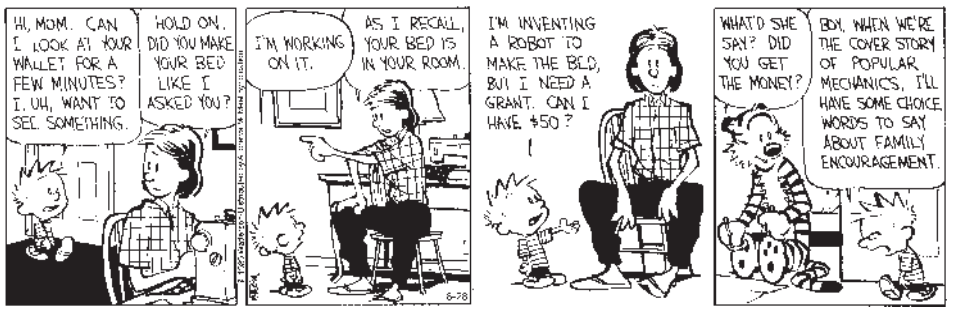


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

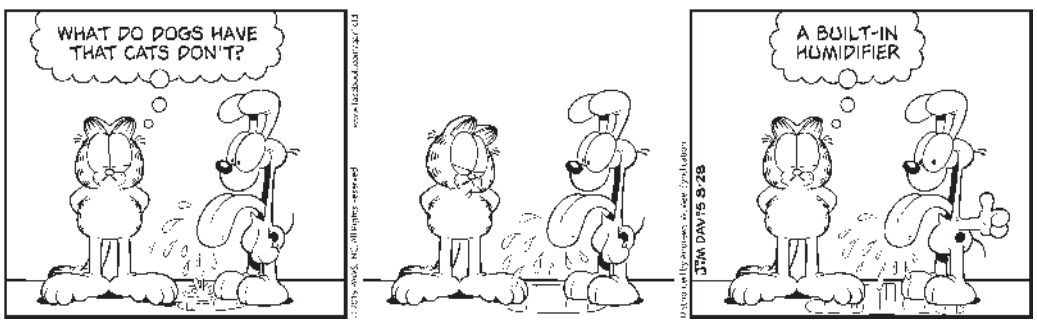
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM. CAN I LOOK AT YOUR WALLET FOR A FEW MINUTES? I, UH, WANT TO SEE SOMETHING.
HOLD ON. DID YOU MAKE YOUR BED LIKE I ASKED YOU?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
AS I RECALL, YOUR BED IS IN YOUR ROOM.
I'M INVENTING A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED, BUT I NEED A GRANT. CAN I HAVE $50?
WHAT'D SHE SAY? DID YOU GET THE MONEY?
BOY, WHEN WE'RE THE COVER STORY OF POPULAR MECHANICS, I'LL HAVE SOME CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY ENCOURAGEMENT.

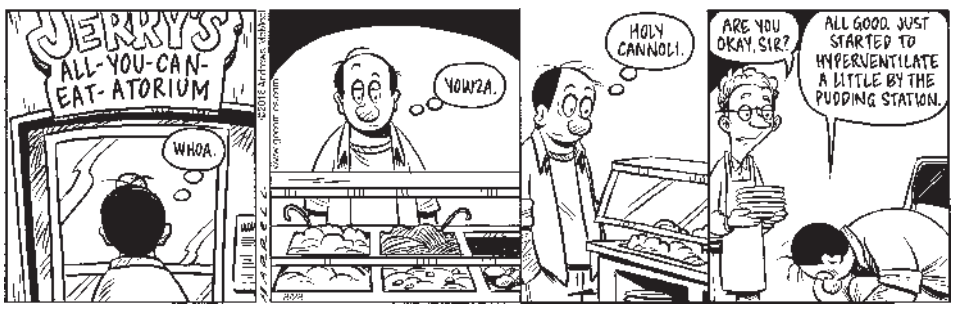
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



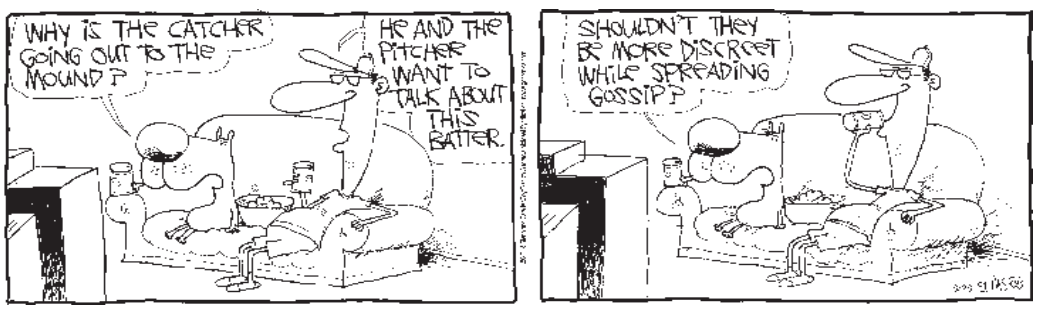
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHY IS THE CATCHER GOING OUT TO THE MOUND?
HE AND THE PITCHER WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS BATTER.
SHOULDN'T THEY BE MORE DISCREET WHILE SPREADING GOSSIP?

CROSSWORD

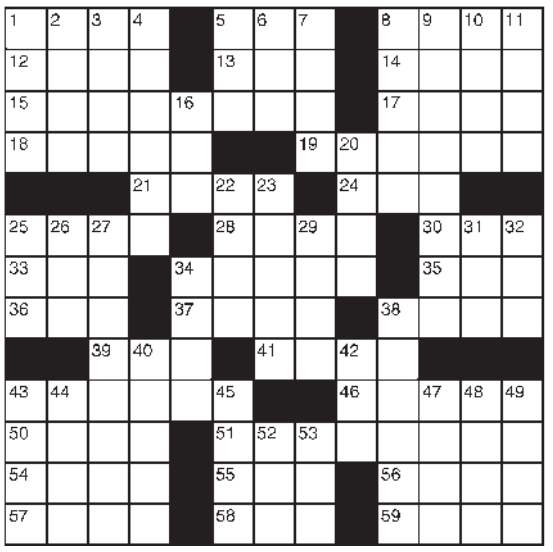
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Teri of "Tootsie"
5 Upscale auto
8 Not single-sex
12 La Scala solo
13 Bond rating
14 "— digress ..."
15 Seine side
17 Jazz singer James
18 French composer Erik
19 Juicy bit of gossip
21 Greek cheese
24 Oahu or Kauai (Abbr.)
25 Mimic
28 Addict
30 $ dispenser
33 Lucy of "Elementary"
34 Strictly — nous
35 Scot's denial
36 Right angle
37 Gilpin of "Frasier"
38 Lose traction
39 Tiki bar necklace
41 "Step —!"
43 "Satires" poet
46 Heroic tales
50 Literary collections
51 Home aquarium
54 Sand formation
55 Numerical prefix
56 "The Time Machine" people
57 Requests
58 Gender
59 Fender bender

DOWN
1 Guys' dates
2 Vicinity
3 Falling-out
4 Formally approve
5 Sheepish remark
6 Fortify
7 Aftermath
8 Drivers with handles
9 Maneuver around, militarily
10 Words to Brutus
11 Old radio part
16 Spelldown
20 Suffix for billion
22 Melody
23 Elroy's dog
25 The Browns, on scoreboards
26 Squeak stopper
27 Leverage one's authority
29 Ms. Brockovich
31 — chi
32 Club —
34 Grand tale
38 Said
40 Relaxes
42 Somewhat (Suff.)
43 "Mary — Little Lamb"
44 Burden
45 New newts
47 Big wind
48 Shortly
49 "SNL" segment
52 Hot temper
53 Half dozen

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Armie Hammer, 33; Jason Priestley, 50; Jack Black, 50; Shania Twain, 54.

Happy Birthday: Make an effort to take advantage of the opportunities and changes heading your way this year. A realistic approach will help you ward off individuals trying to create trouble. Walk away from people and situations that interfere with your goals and achievements. Take care of unfinished business, and deal with home and family matters promptly and efficiently to avoid interference. Your numbers are 6, 14, 24, 26, 30, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Live and learn. An emotional situation should be looked at carefully before you make a decision that can affect your financial future. A change in status, reputation or position should be dealt with correctly. Look for a solid opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Just because you want to make a change doesn't mean you should. Consider who will be affected by the decisions you make and how you can make it worthwhile for everyone. Choose to get along and keep the peace. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be pragmatic when dealing with children, your lover or anyone who tends to lean on you too much. Offer insight and options, but don't do the work for someone else when you should be taking care of your affairs. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Give attention to personal issues before someone tries to take over. If you hem and haw too much, you will end up in a vulnerable position. Have a plan in mind and a backup ready should someone try to interfere. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Giving in to someone or something you know little about shouldn't be considered. The best results will come from hard work, discipline and sticking to what you know and do best. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A business trip or meeting will be revealing. Choose offers that will serve you best. Fine-tuning your course of action will protect against loss as well as results that could stifle your chance to reach your goal. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Reconnect with people from your past who share your concerns, skills and interests, and you'll come up with a plan that encourages you to work as a team to achieve your goals. The results you get will inspire you to do more. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change will be right for you. Decide what is weighing you down, and put it to rest. Go over your options and concerns, and turn your desire into a reality. Look for the perfect platform to execute your plans. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't rely on others to do things for you or to be truthful. Listen and ask questions, and when in doubt, go directly to the source. It's your responsibility to make decisions and to live with the consequences. Choose wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look for the good in everything and everyone. How you pull out the best in everyone around you will encourage success. Your vision and the changes you bring about should ease financial and personal stress. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look on the bright side and follow your heart. Don't feel you have to do something because someone makes a last-minute change. Stick to your plans and do what pleases you. An opportunity can lead to a new beginning. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Aim to stabilize, not disrupt, your world. If someone you deal with daily gives you a hard time, take a step back and consider the best way to move forward. Offer help, not chaos. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, open-minded and hardworking. You are dedicated and persistent.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						3
		8	2		7	4
	3			7		5
9	7	4			3	
2			9		5	
1	5	2			6	9
3		5			4	1
	4			2	7	6
					8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	2	9	4	7	8	3	6
8	6	9	5	3	1	4	2	7
3	7	4	2	6	8	5	1	9
4	9	7	6	1	2	3	8	5
1	3	6	4	8	5	9	7	2
2	8	5	7	9	3	1	6	4
6	5	3	1	2	9	7	4	8
9	2	1	8	7	4	6	5	3
7	4	8	3	5	6	2	9	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEING NOMINATED Solution: 13 letters

N	T	T	R	O	H	S	N	A	R	R	O	W	E	D
O	O	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	I	A	U	T
I	L	I	P	A	G	E	A	N	T	N	V	T	M	E
T	L	L	T	E	C	H	Y	T	A	Y	Y	S	R	S
I	A	A	Z	A	C	D	R	P	D	D	T	U	P	T
T	B	I	H	O	N	O	R	E	S	N	D	O	C	I
E	R	R	E	I	P	I	M	M	E	E	R	C	L	M
P	Y	E	B	H	C	O	M	M	C	T	Y	I	A	O
H	A	T	Y	W	C	A	E	O	S	I	T	L	S	N
C	R	I	R	A	W	S	R	R	N	A	S	B	S	I
E	E	R	U	A	R	P	A	D	Y	O	E	U	E	A
E	S	C	R	O	P	C	O	P	E	N	B	P	M	L
P	U	D	D	R	S	E	C	I	F	F	O	E	B	S
S	M	N	V	O	T	I	N	G	D	T	I	T	L	E
S	E	C	I	O	H	C	U	L	I	N	A	R	Y	S

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Assembly, Award, Ballot, Best, Bind, Card, Caucus, Chair, Choices, Class, Comedy, Criteria, Culinary, Duty, Endorsements, ESPY, Honor, List, MTV, Music, Narrowed, Nobel, Nomination, Office, Open, Oscars, Pageant, Party, Petition, Prize, Procedure, Public, Resumé, Selection, Short, Speech, Sports, Testimonials, Title, Tony, Trophy, Voting, Win

Yesterday's Answer: Treatment

Treasuries 13 through 18 and **20 through 34** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

WHATZIT Solution: Talk it over

DRIVE SOBER OR
GET PULLED OVER

CHARLENE MANGLONA LIZAMA VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Commercial Cleaner -
High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience.
salary $7.30/ per hr.
Interested applicants please
call 287-3223
email:vicelizama@yahoo.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00

Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Maintenance Technicians $8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
o High School Graduate or its equivalence;
o At least 12months experience.
o Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Counter Clerks** - $7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Degree;
- At least 06 months experience;
- Must be a computer literate

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GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40hrs.a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

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GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - $9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician $14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019 AT 4:00PM

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is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties.

(3) LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDSKEEPING WORKERS
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned.

All positions close 5:00pm on Thursday, September 12, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ May directly apply to Wireless Ridge Landscaping, contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic $8.73 to $10.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate and Inspect Machines and Heavy Equipment, Trucks and vehicles to Diagnose Defects. Clean, Lubricate, and perform other routine maintenance work on Heavy equipment, Trucks and vehicles. Repair or Overhaul Machines, Heavy Equipment, Trucks, and Vehicles then test to ensure operating efficiency. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate
At least 24 months experience as Heavy Mechanic is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) Rolling Machine Setter, Operator and Tender $13.92 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Set up, operate, or tend machines to roll steel forming bends, beads, knurls, rolls, or plate or to flatten, temper or reduce gauge of material. Inspect machine and conduct preventive maintenance. Have inspected materials and products for defects, and to ensure conformance to specifications. Set up machine to ensure items manufactured or produced meet customers' specifications. Direct or accomplish the threading or feed sheets or rods through rolling mechanisms or start and control mechanisms that automatically feed steel into rollers. Direct or accomplish the packaging, fastening or stacking of end product for proper storage or delivery. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate
At least 12 months experience as Rolling machine, setter, operator and tender is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

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Phillies stay in race for NL wild card

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sean Rodriguez lined a home run leading off the bottom of the 11th inning to give the Philadelphia Phillies a 6-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday night.

Josh Bell hit a solo homer off Philadelphia closer Hector Neris to tie it at 5 in the ninth after Corey Dickerson hit a two-run shot against his former team in the eighth to give the Phillies a one-run lead.

But after stranding five runners in the ninth and 10th, the Phillies won it when Rodriguez went deep against Michael Feliz (2-4) for his fourth career walk-off homer. Rodriguez was in a 1-for-21 slump before he connected.

Philadelphia moved within a game of the idle Cubs for the second NL wild card.

Bryce Harper homered with two outs in the eighth in his first game back from paternity leave to cut it to 4-3. After J.T. Realmuto's infield single, Dickerson ripped one out to put the Phillies ahead 5-4.

Dickerson, acquired from the Pirates before the July 31 trade deadline, has 21 RBIs in 19 games for the Phillies.

Brad Miller also had a two-run shot for Philadelphia. Mike Morin (1-0) tossed two scoreless innings for the win.

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Starling Marte, left, is tagged out by Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jean Segura after trying to steal second base during the 10th inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Cardinals 12, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Marcell Ozuna's bases-loaded double keyed a six-run second inning and surging St. Louis pounded out a victory over the Brewers.

The Cardinals, who have won five straight, jumped on starter Gio Gonzalez (2-2) for eight runs in the first two innings en route to their 14th victory in 17 games.

Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong each homered and drove in three runs for St. Louis, which moved a season-high 14 games above .500. The Cardinals extended their NL Central lead to three games over the Cubs. The third-place Brewers dropped 5½ back.

Athletics 19, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Marcus Semien homered, tripled and drove in a career-high seven runs as Oakland set season highs for runs and hits in a rout of the Royals.

Jurickson Profar, Matt Chapman and Khris Davis also went deep for the Athletics, who are locked in a tight race with Cleveland and Tampa Bay for the two American League wild cards. Josh Phegley drove in three runs and scored three times. Four players had three hits and every starter got at least one as Oakland finished with 22.

Seth Brown singled in the first two at-bats of his big league career, scored twice and drove in a run.

Rockies 3, Braves 1

In Denver, Ryan McMahon hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift Colorado over Atlanta, ending the Braves' eight-game winning streak.

McMahon drove a fastball from Jerry Blevins just over the scoreboard in right field for the second game-ending homer of his career. Nolan Arenado started the inning with a walk against Anthony Swarzak (1-2).

Jairo Diaz (5-3) blew a save in the ninth but got the win as the Rockies stopped a four-game skid.

It was a makeup from an April 10 game postponed due to inclement weather, forcing Atlanta to crisscross the country.

Yankees 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Gleyber Torres hit his 13th home run this month, Mike Ford went deep twice and New York beat the Mariners.

Torres launched his 33rd homer of the season on the first pitch of the second inning from Tommy Milone, who took over after Matt Wisler was used as an opener. It was the start of a four-run rally for the AL East leaders. Austin Romine had an RBI single and Ford added the big blow with a two-run shot down the right field line.

Ford, previously a Rule 5 pick by the Mariners and later returned to the Yankees, added a solo homer in the fourth. The three home runs boosted the Yankees' total to 64 in August, a major league record for any month.

Milone (3-8) allowed eight hits and five runs in five innings.

New York starter J.A. Happ (11-8) struck out seven and permitted just three hits in five innings. He gave up a three-run homer to Dylan Moore.

Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his 36th save.

Padres 4, Dodgers 3

In San Diego, Greg Garcia scored the tying run on a throwing error by center fielder A.J. Pollock, and Manny Machado drove in the go-ahead run on a groundout during a three-run rally in the sixth inning that carried the Padres past Los Angeles.

Dodgers rookie Dustin May (1-3) took a 3-1 lead into the sixth before the Padres rallied to hand the NL West leaders their third loss in four games.

Eric Lauer (7-8) improved to 5-0 against the Dodgers in seven career starts. He allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, striking out eight.

All-Star closer Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 38th save in 41 chances.

Justin Turner and Kiké Hernández homered for the Dodgers. Turner also had an RBI double.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Arizona outfielder Jarrod Dyson made a pair of stellar defensive plays in the sixth inning after Eduardo Escobar scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch, and the Diamondbacks held on to beat the Giants.

Adam Jones delivered his third pinch-hit homer this season. Wilmer Flores added three hits and an RBI to help the Diamondbacks to their sixth win in eight games against the Giants.

Alex Young (6-3) allowed two runs, one earned, in 5 1/3 innings and beat the Giants for the second time this year. Archie Bradley earned his eighth save.

Dyson's defense stood out on a night when two teams chasing an NL wild card combined for four errors.

Reds 6, Marlins 3

In Miami, Sonny Gray pitched into the seventh inning, Freddy Galvis drove in four runs and Cincinnati stopped a three-game slide.

Gray (10-6) walked five, but limited Miami to two runs and two hits. The right-hander improved to 4-0 in August, allowing three runs in five starts.

Galvis had three hits and Eugenio Suárez hit his 36th homer for the Reds.

Neil Walker and Jorge Alfaro homered for the Marlins. Pablo Lopez (5-6) allowed four runs in five innings.

World Cup-bound Team USA beats Canada

AUSTRALIA—Despite all the consternation over Team USA's streak-snapping loss to Australia on Saturday, things may just be alright.

In their final international exhibition before the FIBA World Cup, the Americans dominated Canada, 84-68.

Seemingly burnt from their narrow loss just two days earlier, Team USA got off to a quick 20-9 lead in the first quarter and built up a 46-31 lead by halftime. Team captain Donovan Mitchell punctuated the end of the period with a rare one-handed, buzzer-beating alley-oop from Khris Middleton.

"We really locked in," starting center Myles Turner said. "I think last game was a wake-up call for us, and we took that to heart and really performed."

Jaylen Brown led all scorers with 19 points off the bench on terrific 8-of-11 efficiency from the field. Turner added his best performance yet down low with 10 points, 15 rebounds and a pair of blocks, while Mitchell added 12 points, albeit on 12 shots.

Kemba Walker, the lone All-NBA player still on the roster, was impressive again as well with 12 points. He displayed excellent attacking skills, as he drew foul fouls and seven free throws and made one particularly acrobatic lay-in.

Team USA never let the game get back to single digits in the second half and extended its lead to as many as 24 points after a fourth-quarter Derrick White lay-up.

There were still a few issues for the team to iron out. The team only shot 43.8 percent from the field—including 2-of-14 from behind the arc—and committed 19 turnovers. Canada is not a very experienced team, so they'll have to be better against stronger competition. But it's nice to get another win under their belt and the taste of the Australia loss out of their mouth.

"It's definitely going to take some time; it's a process," Brown said. "But we've got to speed up that learning curve. We can't have any drop-offs, and we've got a great responsibility on our shoulders, so we've got to come out and play really great basketball."

Team USA will get a much-deserved day off on Tuesday before flying to Shanghai for the FIBA World Cup. Their first three opponents are already set, with games against the Czech Republic on Sept. 1, Turkey on Sept. 3 and Japan on Sept. 5.

The Americans will be favored in all of their games, but particularly in those games. Assuming they are one of the two top teams in their group, they'll advance to the second-round groups, where finishing in the top two of that group will send them to the quarterfinals

Team USA doesn't actually need to win the World Cup to qualify for the Olympics; they just need to be among the top two finishers among teams from the Americas. But even after dozens of star departures, they and their country still have that expectation of dominance.

Serena breezes past Sharapova in opener

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams was not about to let Maria Sharapova make a match of this.

So facing a break point early in the second set, Williams conjured up a backhand passing shot so good, so powerful, so precise, that Sharapova had no chance to reach it. Williams watched the ball land, and then raised a clenched left fist toward the night sky.

In her first match at the U.S. Open since last year's loss in a chaotic, controversial final, Williams stretched her winning streak against Sharapova to 19 matches with a nearly flawless performance that produced a 6-1, 6-1 victory Monday.

Asked whether she could even imagine losing that many matches in a row across 15 years against one opponent, Williams paused for a moment, then replied: "Gosh, I never thought about it like that."

She now leads their head-to-head series 20-2.

"Every time I come up against her," Williams said, "I just bring out some of my best tennis."

Sure did this time; the whole thing lasted all of 59 minutes.

Williams won twice as many points, 56-28. She saved all five break points she faced and lashed serves at up to 115 mph. She broke five times.

"I always said her ball somehow lands in my strike zone," Williams said. "I don't know. It's just perfect for me."

Few players would have stood a chance against Williams the way she was hitting balls deep and true—and certainly not a diminished Sharapova, who is ranked 87th after missing much of this season with a bad right shoulder that needed surgery.

This was a showdown fit for a final, at least in theory: These two met in a title match at each of the other three Grand Slam tournaments but never had faced each other in New York.

Williams arrived at Flushing Meadows, where she's won six titles, accompanied by questions about her back, because spasms that flared up this month forced her to stop playing during the final of one hard-court tuneup tournament and pull out of another one entirely.

Didn't seem to be an issue against Sharapova.

Not one bit.

"The body's good. I feel good," Williams said. "My back's a lot better. So I'm excited. This is going to be fun."

A year ago, she was beaten by Naomi Osaka in straight sets in a U.S. Open final that devolved after a back-and-forth between Williams and chair umpire Carlos Ramos. When Williams was asked Monday night what she thought of the U.S. Tennis Association's decision that Ramos would not officiate any match involving her or her older sister, Venus, at this year's tournament, this was the reply: "I don't know who that is."

LOL, as the kids say.

Williams was calm and cool as can be against Sharapova, only rarely showing the slightest hint of emotion with a cry of "Come on!" or the occasional fist pump, such as the one after the key backhand on break point.

Sharapova called that shot "great."

It shaped up, at least, as far and away the most intriguing matchup on Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Few athletes in any sport have been as popular in recent decades.

Williams owns 23 major singles title, Sharapova five.

Both have a career Grand Slam.

Both have been ranked No. 1.

The Williams family only dropped a total of three games in two matches Monday, because Venus beat Zheng Saisai 6-1, 6-0 earlier.

Nothing brought out the spectators the way Serena Williams vs. Maria Sharapova did, with full-throated roars greeting them when they walked from the locker room into a dimly lit stadium.

When the lights came on, Williams proved far more ready for prime time.

Only once before had Sharapova lost a night match in Arthur Ashe Stadium, going 22-1 until Monday.

"I've had a lot of tough matches here and a lot of tough losses," Williams told the crowd afterward, "but coming out here tonight makes it all worthwhile."

Meanwhile, 2016 champion Angelique Kerber continued her rough Grand Slam year with a first-round exit against Kristina Mladenovic by a 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 score, while 2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova and reigning French Open title winner Ash Barty both struggled through rough starts before emerging.

AP

Serena Williams returns to Maria Sharapova during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Federer gets first set scare against qualifier

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Federer dropped the first set he played at this year's U.S. Open—against someone named Nagal.

No, not Nadal.

Nagal.

Federer shrugged off that slow start and came back for a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory Monday night against Sumit Nagal, a qualifier from India ranked 190th.

How did the 20-time Grand Slam champion deal with digging himself that hole?

''Just try to forget it,'' Federer said during his on-court interview in Arthur Ashe Stadium. ''Play tough. Stay with him. It was a tough first set for me. ... Credit to him.''

When that first set ended, there were plenty of people looking on in disbelief - in Federer's guest box, certainly; around the stands, of course; and in front of TVs at home, surely.

''People expect a different result,'' Federer said. ''I expect something else.''

This was not, after all, Rafael Nadal, someone Federer has never faced at Flushing Meadows but trails 24-16 head-to-head overall.

Instead, it was Nagal, who is now 0-5 in tour-level matches for his career, trailing Federer by 1,224 victories.

''It would have been a better story,'' said Nagal, who now heads to Genoa, Italy, to enter a low-tier Challenge Tour event on red clay, ''if I had got another set or more.''

Federer was a big part of what transpired in the early going: Of the 32 points Nagal won in the first set, only three arrived via his own winners. Of the other 29, 19 were thanks to unforced errors by Federer, and another 10 were forced errors off the Swiss star's racket.

One particular issue was Federer's serve: He won merely seven of his initial 20 second-serve points.

But he returned well throughout, breaking in Nagal's first service game of every set, and eventually, the rest of Federer's game came around, too.

''Maybe it's not a bad thing to go through a match like this,'' said Federer, who has now won his past 62 first-round Slam matches. ''It was very similar at Wimbledon.''

That's true. He ceded his very first set at the All England Club in July, then wound up making it all the way to the final - even holding championship points before eventually losing to Novak Djokovic in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

Nagal soon saw a better Federer than was present at the outset Monday.

''He loves putting pressure on the other guy. The thing with him is you don't know what type of shot (he'll play),'' Nagal said. ''He's always making you think. ... You have no idea where the ball is coming back.''

In other results, top-seeded Novak Djokovic felt good enough after his workmanlike first-round victory.

Djokovic, who is now 34-1 in his last 35 Grand Slam matches, dispatched Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

He then gave an on-court interview in which he acknowledged dancing in Central Park as part of his prematch preparation. Djokovic promptly went to his bag and pulled out two rackets that he used as faux maracas while he showed off his Latin dance moves to the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

Djokovic, winner of this year's Australian Open and Wimbledon crowns, is seeking his fourth U.S. Open and 17th Grand Slam tournament title.

In another opening round game, Reilly Opelka's first main-draw match at the U.S. Open went about as well as possible, as the 6-foot-11 American hit 26 aces in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3 victory over 11th-seeded Fabio Fognini of Italy.

The only real slip-up by Opelka came when he served for the match ahead 6-5 in the third set. Still, after getting broken there and eventually dropping that set, Opelka recovered quickly to grab the fourth.

Opelka, currently ranked a career-high 42nd, acknowledged that his serve wasn't at its very best, but said the victory "shows that I've got more than that to back it up."

He turns 22 on Wednesday, when he plays in the second round.

His best Grand Slam showing was a third-round run at Wimbledon last month.

Kei Nishikori became the first player into the second round at the U.S. Open when qualifier Marco Trungelliti had to retire with the 2014 U.S. Open runner-up leading 6-1, 4-1.

Nishikori is the No. 7 seed this year after reaching the semifinals in Flushing Meadows last year.

Trungelliti, an Argentine playing in his first Grand Slam main-draw match since the 2018 French Open, needed treatment on his upper body during a changeover in the second set. He then whacked a ball in frustration after a serve hit the net, and said he couldn't continue playing.

Trungelliti was the key witness in a match-fixing probe that resulted in the three Argentine players receiving bans for gambling-related activities. Best known of the three was Nicolas Kicker, at No. 84, the highest-ranked player convicted so far of fixing matches.

Howard, Allen going for bigger roles for Rams

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Rams linebackers Travin Howard and Dakota Allen have plenty in common.

Both were seventh-round picks after playing in the Big 12, with Howard drafted in 2018 after four seasons for TCU and Allen selected this past April after playing three seasons at Texas Tech.

Both have performed well this preseason, having become all the more important to the Rams' depth at inside linebacker after projected starter Micah Kiser sustained a serious pectoral injury in the second preseason game.

But only Allen can say he was a television celebrity before arriving in Hollywood, having appeared on the second season of the Netflix reality series "Last Chance U."

"Honestly, it's kind of weird," Allen said of the recognition from the show, which documented his time at a Mississippi community college following a 2016 burglary charge. "But I'm just here trying to prove myself, prove why I belong, and just trying to get along with all the players, and I feel like I'm doing a pretty good job of doing that so far."

The show left plenty of people rooting for Allen, including Howard. Now they have plenty of Rams fans cheering for both of them following the injury to Kiser, who was expected to start after the release of incumbent Mark Barron in March.

Kiser's extended absence likely elevates five-season veteran Bryce Hager into the lineup, which in turn puts Howard and Allen closer to significant roles for the defending NFC champions. Not only will the Rams need players ready to go on defense behind starter Cory Littleton and Hager, they are also looking for contributors on special teams.

AP

In this Aug. 24, 2019, file photo, Los Angeles Rams linebacker Travin Howard (48) tackles a Denver Broncos player during an NFL preseason football game in Los Angeles.

Based on how they played in the third preseason game against Denver, Howard and Allen seem capable of addressing both roles if needed. Howard started as the first-unit defense was held out again and finished with a team-leading eight tackles, while Allen received extensive playing time in the second half against the Broncos, finishing with five tackles, including one tackle for loss, and one pass defensed.

Coach Sean McVay praised both linebackers, giving kudos to Allen for his run defense and Howard for his pass coverage.

Allen "certainly has made his presence felt, and I think you feel what a physical football player he is, the instincts," McVay said.

As for Howard, McVay pointed to a play where he tracked a running back coming out of the backfield as a showcase for "the athleticism, the speed and the ability to go sideline to sideline" he possesses.

However, there are no guarantees that either player will make the final 53-man roster. Howard has been through this uncertainty before, having been placed on injured reserve after the preseason as a rookie.

Howard was later signed to the practice squad, and that experience gives him some perspective on how to approach this week.

"All I can do is put out my film and trust my film and just trust everything I've been doing," Howard said. "I feel like I've been doing a pretty good job, and I feel like they like me. Hopefully I can still be here."

Allen is trying to stay upbeat, but acknowledged some nervousness.

"Of course it's a stressful week," Allen said. "But as far as thinking about it, I don't think I give it too much thought, because at the end of the day I'm just going to play my best ball. If it's not good enough, it's not good enough, but knowing you did your best, that's all you can do."

And if Allen's last chance to play for the Rams happens to be at Houston on Thursday in the preseason finale, he is determined to make the most of it.

"Absolutely, I treat it like a regular game every time I step on the field, so I am definitely enjoying myself," Allen said. "And it's sad that it's only one more coming. It's about to come to an end, but I am definitely going to enjoy it while I am out there."

McVay said there was no update regarding negotiations for contract extensions with QB Jared Goff and CB Marcus Peters. Goff is starting the fourth year of his rookie deal, while Peters is beginning the fifth-year option of his rookie contract. Cornerback Aqib Talib (hamstring) could return to practice this week, McVay said. The Rams have only one more workout before they travel to Houston.

Undrafted players making big impression on Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—After winning just four games last season and holding four picks in the top two rounds of the NFL draft, the Oakland Raiders figured to have plenty of opportunities for rookies to contribute.

What's a bit surprising is how many of those rookies fighting for spots in the final week before the 90-man roster gets cut down to 53 is how many of those players entered the league as undrafted free agents.

Coach Jon Gruden said he believes five undrafted players have a chance to make the roster on Saturday, although all the contenders know their status is always tenuous after being passed over in the draft.

''Being an undrafted guy, you can be here one day and be somewhere else the next,'' defensive tackle Anthony Rush said. ''I've learned that. But I really feel like this'll be a good fit for me. Hopefully things work out here for me. If they don't, you know, just keep pushing. But I feel like they will.''

Rush has been a find since joining the team during training camp. The former UAB player initially signed with Philadelphia, but was cut early in training camp. He then went to Detroit for a tryout and was waiting in a hotel there for the Lions to create a roster spot when the Raiders called.

With Detroit not ready to make a commitment, Rush flew to the Bay Area and signed with the Raiders, where he has made an immediate impact. Six of his nine tackles in the preseason have come at or behind the line of scrimmage as he has been able to use his 350-pound size to control the line of scrimmage.

Rush has company among the undrafted players looking to make the roster. Punter A.J. Cole already won a competition with last year's fifth-round pick Johnny Townsend and looks set to make the team this season.

Local favorite receiver Keelan Doss, cornerback Keisean Nixon, versatile offensive lineman Andre James and fullback Alec Ingold have also made a case to be included on the initial 53-man list in Oakland or get an opportunity somewhere else.

The Raiders have kept more than two undrafted rookies on the initial 53-man roster just once in the past seven seasons so having this many in the running so close to cut-down day is unusual.

Doss grew up in the same town as the Raiders facility in Alameda and starred in college at FCS-level UC Davis. He got on Gruden's radar with a strong performance at the Senior Bowl, but was passed over at the draft despite talk that he would be taken in the later rounds.

Doss chose to sign with his hometown team even if the receiver position was crowded following offseason additions of players such as Antonio Brown, Tyrell Williams, J.J. Nelson, Ryan Grant and fifth-round pick Hunter Renfrow.

Doss ranks in the top 10 in the league this preseason with 11 catches for 99 yards and a touchdown, putting him squarely in the mix for one of the final spots at receiver along with last year's seventh-round pick Marcel Ateman and the veteran Grant thanks in large part to his ability to play all three receiver spots.

''I think that's what kind of prepared me for now,'' he said. ''It's that I played every single position. Just give me the best opportunity to get open and so translating that to now, I feel like I probably can make an impact.''

Nixon, who didn't expect to be drafted after hurting his neck in his final college game at South Carolina, has made a big impact this summer for the Raiders.

He has been targeted 15 times in three preseason games, allowing only five catches for 37 yards, according to Pro Football Focus for a 42.4 passer rating against.

With Nevin Lawson suspended the first four games for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancers and last year's fourth-round pick Nick Nelson struggling, Nixon has a good shot to make the team.

''If you've studied the film, you'll see what we see,'' Gruden said. ''He's made more plays than any of our corners. He's playing extremely well. He's confident. I mean, he's had a lot of ball production and he's also been a factor on special teams, so we are really pleased with Nixon.''

James and Ingold appear to be longer shots to make the team, but could be well-positioned for spots on the practice squad. Ingold played well early in camp when starting fullback Keith Smith was out injured, but might have a hard time making the team now that Smith is healthy.

James, a college tackle at UCLA, has played center for the Raiders and was called one of the ''best stories'' of camp by Gruden.

Pardz, Mawati prevail in One Pacific caging

No majors, but a major finish for McIlroy

ATLANTA (AP)—Rory McIlroy never felt richer than when he knocked in a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the FedEx Cup.

Only it had nothing to do with the money.

It was never about $15 million.

Even before he teed off in the Tour Championship—facing a five-shot deficit before he hit a shot at East Lake because of the radical new scoring format—McIlroy made it clear the FedEx Cup should be more about accomplishment than cash.

And then it became personal.

A year ago, he was lost in the chaos surrounding Tiger Woods as they walked up to the 18th green at East Lake as thousands of spectators came under the ropes to celebrate the return of Tiger Woods in his Sunday red winning a tournament for the first time in more than five years.

''I never enjoyed that walk last year like everyone else did,'' he said.

He appreciated Woods winning. McIlroy did not appreciate that he didn't make Woods work terribly hard for it.

Recent motivation came from a World Golf Championship last month in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had a one-shot lead over Brooks Koepka, the No. 1 player in the world who had won as many majors in three years as McIlroy had won in the last nine years.

Koepka shot 65. McIlroy laid an egg.

Sunday at East Lake was his chance for redemption on a number of levels, and he added another one by his questioning of the new format in which not everyone started on the same score. The new system, designed to eliminate confusion by having only one winner on Sunday in the FedEx Cup finale, meant players started more under par depending on their position in the FedEx Cup.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pardz Ballers showed consistency on offense to beat IT&E Light, 81-71, in a regular match in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Frday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Pardz scored at least 20 points in the first three quarters to gain cushion en route to its third win in the Tsingtao Beer-sponsored competition.

J.R. Barrios had 8 markers for Pardz in the opening period, lifting their team to a 22-17 lead. Pardz then had another 20-plus output (24) in the second canto to keep the upper hand at the break, 44-39. Pardz leaned on Mike Santos' three triples in the second quarter to remain in front.

IT&E Light despite being outgunned by Pardz in the first half, kept its opponent within striking distance after drawing 15 points from Henry Divinagracia in the second quarter. However, IT&E Light found itself behind by double digits after the third frame, 50-66, after drilling only five field goals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Pardz Ballers player, right, dribbles past a Connie's BBQ defender during an earlier game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court in Susupe. Pardz split its two matches over the weeked.

Pardz, on the other hand, managed to make eight baskets for the 16-point margin, going into the final quarter.

The fourth period had IT&E Light rallying behind Jaymark De Guzman, but Pardz hit back, as it had multiple options on offense.

Meanwhile, Pardz also played last Sunday, but Mawati won the make-up game, 80-73.

It was a come-from-behind-win for Mawati, which entered the final canto facing a 55-60 deficit.

Mawati was able to battle back after nearly doubling Pardz's production in the fourth quarter, 25-13. Frank Ferrer stepped up in the payoff canto after scoring 12 points, including 8 straight markers. He added four important free throws and Mawati nailed 7 of their last 9 points from the foul line. Raymond Velasco made the final three charities and Mawati's last 5 points to finish the fourth frame with 7 markers.

Mawati's 25-point output made up for its second-quarter meltdown where the team delivered only 12 points, allowing Pardz to take a 43-34 halftime advantage. Mawati moved within 5 after the third period, as it logged 21 points and continued its uphill climb in the fourth to steal the win.

Mawati improved its record to 4-1 for third place behind Tsingtao (5-0) and Connie's BBQ (5-1), while Pardz fell to a 3-2 slate for a three-way tie for fourth to sixth place with Saipan Adventure and IT&E Light.

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bounds the entire season.

Meanwhile, the division's sportsmanship ward was given to the 670 Sonics during the trophies presentation last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

In the U16 division, the NMI Rollers' Steve King was named regular season MVP for making 13 steals, 12 rebounds, 11 assists, and three blocks.

The Finals MVP in the U16 division was Derrick Atalig, also from the NMI Rollers. He delivered 8 points in the championship game and also tallied 13 rebounds, three assists, two steals, and one block. The NMI Rollers nipped the Ol'Aces in the finals, 49-48, off Ervin Villarin's last-second dagger.

Other awardees in the U16 division were Rexon Calage, Jay Palmes, and Koboy Mizutani of the NMI Rollers, and Greg Deleon Guerrero of the Ol'Aces.

Calage was named King of Rebounds for grabbing 16, Palmes took home the King of Assists award for his 15 feeds, and Mizutani was named King of Blocks for swatting away 12 shots. Deleon Guerrero was named King of Steals for his 23 steals.

The U16 sportsmanship award went to ChinaTown.

In the U14 division, the Rollers' Freddy Pelisamen earned the regular season MVP and King of Steals awards. He had 16 steals and also registered 23 rebounds and six blocks in the elimination round.

The King of Assists award was given to Rollers' Leo Naraja for his 23 assists, the King of Blocks trophy was handed to the Ol'Aces' Craig Padayao for his 13 blocks, and the King of Rebounds plum went to the Rollers' Nyler Eugenio for his 35 boards.

Rounding out the awardees in the U14 division was Tinian, which took home the sportsmanship trophy.

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the run last year.

Quarterback Jerome Norita made three TD passes, two were for Isaiah Hartzler in the second quarter, while Ben Jones Jr. and Stewart Toilolo scored the two other TDs in the Sharks' demolition of Team Guam in 2018.

For the 2019 edition of their duel, Blanco said that roughly 30 players from the CNMI and 30 players from Guam will face off. Majority of the players who saw action in last year's match are expected return to the CPA Airport Field for the 1pm tussle this weekend.

Blanco said that although the CNMI walked away with a lopsided victory the last time they challenged Guam, the visiting team is not an easy target. The CNMI Sharks do not want to be complacent against Guam and have been training hard for this weekend's game.

"Guam is always a tough team and they are the guys to beat in the region. We do train to win, as we know that Guam is one really tough team to beat. It's going to be one hell of a game. Hope everyone can come out and watch it," he said.

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were recorded in a span of six minutes. An own goal in the 18th minute handed the Teen Ayuyus a 2-0 advantage, while two minutes later, John Michael Rojas' conversion made it a 3-0 lead. Joshua De Leon's penalty shot in the 22nd minute stretched the margin to 5-0, while Taka Borja wrapped up the Commonwealth crew's show in the first half with his goal in the 34th for their commanding 6-0 lead at the break.

When the game resumed, the Michiteru Mita-coached CNMI U18 continued to dominate possession and had multiple attempts before cashing in on another goal. Joshua Waldo's cross from right center was partially blocked by Beijing 97 United Football Club goalie Hang Yu, but the latter had butterfingers and lost the ball, which then rolled in, giving the host a 7-0 advantage.

Behind by a big margin, Beijing 97 United Football Club tried to end its drought in the second half and had several chances to do so in the closing minutes of the game, but just could not complete the plays. From the 69th to 71st minute, the visiting squad, had multiple opportunities to make it to the board. The first one was a cross at left center, but CNMI goalie Merrick Toves dove for the save. Toves continued to hold his ground, as on three straight occasions, Beijing 97 went for the shots and the Commonwealth had a hand on the ball, either pushing the leather out or picking it up. Then in the extra one minute of the game, Toves used his hands and body to deflect a shot off a corner kick to preserve the Teen Ayuyus' shutout victory.

Mita, after blanking Beijing 97 United and the M-League All-Stars (3-0), was pleased with how the CNMI U18 played defense in their last two games. On offense, he took note of how they were able to execute plays and make goals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Beijing Elite Core Club's Zhenxing Wang, left, receives the runner-up trophy from NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario during the awards ceremony for the Marianas Invitational Football Tournament last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"We don't want to score just because of our opponents' mistakes. We want to have goals as results of our attacks and the boys did that in the last two games. They also adjusted well on defense after allowing two quick goals against Beijing Elite Core in our first game," Mita said.

Beijing Elite Core, after a tough 3-4 defeat at the hands of the CNMI U18, took the runner-up honors in the tournament following a 3-0 triumph over the The Game-sponsored M-League All-Stars last Monday night.

Zhenxing Wang and Yifan Zhang scored for the Beijing Elite Core, which got an own goal off the M-League All-Stars' defensive miscue in the first half. Wang recorded his goal in the 35th minute, while Zhang lit up the board 10 minutes later.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta, East Asian Football Federation representative Maiko Sonoda, NMIFA treasurer Elna Curate, and NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario presented trophies to Beijing Elite Core, CNMI U18, M-League All-Stars, and the Beijing United 97 at the conclusion of the three-day competition.

Phillies stay in race for NL wild card

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Serena breezes past Sharapova in opener

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and East Asian Football Association officials present the championship trophy to the CNMI Boys U18 National Team coaches and players during the awards ceremony for the Marianas Invitational Football Tournament last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CNMI U18 reigns supreme

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team capped its perfect run in the Marianas Invitational Football Tournament with a 7-0 demolition of the M-League All-Stars last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Skyler Poon led the Teen Ayuyus' rout of the M-League All-Stars after knocking in a pair of goals in the match that gave the CNMI U18 team a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the inaugural competition. The clean slate also allowed the CNMI U18 to take the championship trophy after besting Beijing Elite Core Club (2-0-1), M-League All-Stars (1-0-2) and Beijing 97 United Football Club (0-0-3).

Poon delivered both of his goals in the first half, as he scored in the 10th and 24th minute. The Teen Ayuyus went on to bag four more goals in the first 35 minutes of play to pull away early.

Four of the CNMI U18's last five goals in the first half

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CNMI Sharks brace for Guam fightback

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 8th Marianas Bowl is scheduled for this Saturday with the CNMI Sharks anticipating a Team Guam eager to avenge its lost to the hosts last year.

According to CNMI Sharks coach John Blanco, Team Guam will bring a full contingent of all-stars to ensure that there is no repeat of last year's crushing defeat. The CNMI Sharks coasted to a 26-0 victory in the 2018 competition, breaking Team Guam's winning streak (six) in the two islands' American football showdown.

"The first-ever game between the two islands was played back on March 11, 2001 and the two islands have since faced each other a total of seven times since then. Guam has won the previous six games… with the exception of last year's game," Blanco said.

Team Guam prevailed in the two matches in 2011 and also won in 2002, 2013, 2014, and 2016 before the Sharks halted

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Two CNMI Sharks defenders hit the ground after attempting to tackle a Team Guam player during their game in the 7th Marianas Bowl last year at the CPA Airport Field.

Santos gets MVP, 2 other awards

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces' Coby Santos bagged the regular season MVP trophy and two other awards in the U18 division of the 2019 Pacific Amusement/ NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament.

Santos put up impressive numbers in five games in the elimination round, as he averaged in double figures in scoring and racked up 27 rebounds, 20 steals, 15 assists and four blocks. The Ol'Aces gunner topped the assists department and also led the division in steals category.

Santos and the Ol'Aces were defeated by the Tinian Typhoon in the division finals with Gregory Santos playing a key role in the visiting squad's upset of the top-ranked team 60-58. Gregory ended up taking the Finals MVP award, as he made 16 points and 19 rebounds in their overtime win in the title match.

The Tinian player was also awarded the King of Rebounds award for recording 38 re-

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Ol'Aces' Coby Santos shows the regular season MVP trophy he received during the awards ceremony for the 2019 Pacific Amusement/ NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.